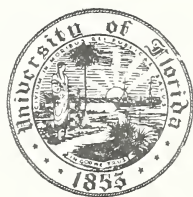


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 A Close Catalogue of the Rectors of Prestwich, from 1316 to 1632. pp. xxiv, 30; *Index* 4.

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LANCASTER AND CHESTER.

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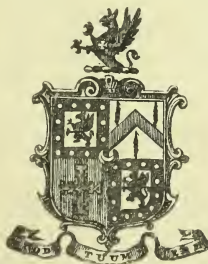
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CHETHAM MISCELLANIES.

VOLUME THE SIXTH.

CONTAINING,

- I. THE RENT ROLL OF SIR JOHN TOWNELEY OF TOWNELEY, KNIGHT, FOR BURNLEY, IGHTEHILL, ETC., IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER. ANNO DOMINI 1535-6.
- II. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MR. LANGLEY OF PRESTWICH, SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.
- III. A CLOSE CATALOGUE OF THE RECTORS OF PRESTWICH, FROM 1316 TO 1632.

EDITED BY

THE REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A.,

HON. CANON OF MANCHESTER AND VICAR OF MILNROW.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

M.DCCC.LXXVIII.



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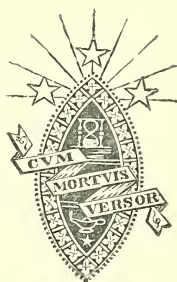
THE
R E N T R O L L
OF
Sir John Towneley of Towneley, Knight,
FOR
BURNLEY, IGTENHILL, &c.,
IN THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER.

ANNO DOMINI

1535-6.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES
BY
THE REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A.,
HON. CANON OF MANCHESTER AND VICAR OF MILNROW.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
M.DCCC.LXXVIII.



PRINTED BY CHARLES E. SIMMS,
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INTRODUCTION.

THE various items constituting the income of the Lancashire estate of Sir John Towneley of Towneley, Knight, here printed, are contained in a well-preserved vellum roll, consisting of four membranes, each being about a yard and a half in length, and six inches in width, and was probably the steward's annual account. It is legibly written by a methodical and practised scribe on one side only, although his financial report is not very exact. It was formerly in the possession of Edmund Assheton of Chaderton, Esq., a contemporary and probably the Auditor of the estate; and on the death of his last male descendant of Chaderton, in 1731, it passed from the family. I have placed it in the Chetham Library.

Sir John Towneley was born, according to an Inquisition de probatione ætatis,¹ at Towneley, and was baptised in Burnley Church, in the year 1473, that is a dozen or more years after Edward the Fourth came to the throne, and he died sixty-seven years afterwards (31 Henry VIII.) He was the elder of the two legitimate sons of Sir Richard Towneley, by a daughter of Richard Southworth of Samlesbury, Esq. Having been trained to a military life, and having distinguished himself by his

¹ *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xiv, p. 93.

valour in the Wars of the Roses, Richard Towneley was knighted by Thomas Lord Stanley, afterwards the first Earl of Derby, on Hutton Field, 22 August, 1482. He had not recovered from his wounds, as he died about a month afterwards. He settled on his brothers Lawrence and Nicholas Towneley, as Trustees, by deed dated Towneley, 5 May, 1470,¹ several manors and lands in half-a-dozen different townships in Lancashire, for the use of himself and his wife, during their joint lives, and on the 3rd May, 1482,² when on the eve of joining the army, he made a further settlement of lands in Hapton on his wife for the term of her life. It appeared from his Post Mortem Inquisition, taken at Burnley, 19 Dec., 1482,³ that he died seized of two parts of the Wapentake of Blackburnshire, and of the Manors of Towneley, Hapton, Clivacher and Birtwisle, with their appurtenances. Hopkinson has preserved a letter addressed to him, but which he probably never received, dated 8 Sept., 1482, by the Abbot of Whalley. It was written after the battle, unless the endorsement has been subsequently added, as he is styled "Sir Richard," and the great ecclesiastic approached him at a critical moment, for he must have been near his end, preferring a request on behalf of a Monk of the Abbey for some small church patronage in the gift of the Knight. The Abbot was on good terms with his lay neighbour, and might not antici-

¹ *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xiv, p. 93.

² *Abstr. Lanc. Inq. Post Mort.*, vol. ii, pp. 111-12, Chetham series.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 110.

pate any refusal of his petition, although there is perhaps a little obsequiousness or professed deference in the terms of his application.⁴

Being only nine years old at the death of his father,⁵ his widowed mother and her brother Christopher Southworth⁶ seem to have had the personal care of him. The mother was living at least two or three years after her husband's death, so that she doubtless heard of the defeat of Richard the Third at Bosworth, of the Earl of Richmond having been proclaimed King, and of the marriage of her husband's old friend with the new King's mother.

It is not improbable that the children of the deceased knight were at this time receiving their education at the Abbey school, where the youth of the neighbouring gentry were taught, and the instruction of the boy who was recognised as the descendant and representative of the Deans of Whalley, who had been married ecclesiastics two centuries before the Norman Conquest⁷ and centuries afterwards, would be such as the age deemed necessary for the heir of so distinguished an inheritance.

⁴ *Hist. Lanc. Chantr.*, p. 148, Note.

⁵ *Abstr. Lanc. Inq.*, P.M., vol. ii, p. 112.

⁶ June 1, 1471, 10 *E. IV.*, a contract whereby Richard Towneley, gent., heire of Ihon Towneley, esquyer, shall wed and take to wyfe Joani, sister of Chrystopher Southworth, of Salmsburie, esquier, and on 5 Nov., 1491, a dispensation was granted by William, Bishop (elect) of Lichfield, on the application of Christopher Southworth, they being within the degrees. She is named Johanne.—*Hopkinson's MS. Lanc. MSS.* vol. xiv, p. 93.

⁷ *Hist. of Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 190.

It is certain that his education had been far above the ordinary standard, as he was able, as he has himself recorded, to write his Will, an elaborate and carefully composed instrument, with his own hand.

According to the custom of the times, the boy, John Towneley, when seven years of age, was betrothed or contracted in marriage by his father to Isabella, the daughter and heiress of Sir Charles Pilkington, Knt., and by Indenture dated 4 Oct., 1480, Richard Towneley settled lands in Clivacher and five separate townships upon them and their issue in fee.⁸ A couple of years after this public contract and settlement Sir Richard died, and the Wardship of his son was procured by Sir Charles Pilkington, who thus became seized of the estate during the boy's minority. The Will of Sir Charles is dated Worksop, 3 July, 1484, and was proved at York, 25 June, 1485. The Prior of Worksop and Mr. Edmund Chatterton, Clerk,⁹ were supervisors. The testator

⁸ *Abstr. Lanc. Inq.*, P.M., vol. ii, p. 111.

⁹ Edmund Chaderton, of the Nuthurst family, was one of the greatest pluralists of his own or any other age, a catalogue of his preferments being one of the marvels of ecclesiastical biography. His patrons were Booth, Archbishop of York and king Richard III., to both of whom he was Chaplain. He was ordained Deacon on the 19 April, 1460, being of the diocese of Chester and Lichfield, in the chapel of the manor of Scrooby, by John, Bishop of the Isles, suffragan of the Archbishop of York. His Will is dated 6 April, 1499, and pr. 12 Oct. seq. (*Le Neve*, vol. i, p. 567.) He was buried in St. Stephen's College at Westminster, where he had a Canonry, holding with it various other benefices and offices, as well as the Archdeaconries of Salisbury, Chester and Totnes. (*Ibid.*, vol. iii, pp. 193, 625 ; vol. i, p. 567.) Canon Raine, York.

bequeaths to William Ackworth, Prior of Worksop, 100 marks, and to Edward Cressacre, Rector of Arksey, 40*l.*, which he owed them. The same to be raised out of the lands of John, son and heir of Sir Richard Towneley, Knt., deceased, and out of the lands of Edward, son of Sir John Pilkington, Knt., deceased (brother of the testator), and of which he (the said Sir Charles) had the custody during the minority of their owners.¹⁰ We know not how the death of Sir Charles affected the interests of the minor so soon after the loss of his own father, and probably mother, nor who had the charge of him, but the widow of Sir Charles shortly became connected with another family, and was married by License from the Archbishop of York, in her own domestic chapel at Gateford, to Sir Robert Radcliffe, Knt., on the 14 April, 1486.¹¹ Her lands and arms, however, passed with her daughter to the Towneleys, and Sir John had "livery" of his own lands, 15 Henry VII.,¹² from the king.

¹⁰ *Testam. Ebor.*, vol. iii, p. 240, Note. Surtees Soc. Axon's (Harland) Geneal. of Pilkington, p. xlvii, 4to., 1875, privately printed.

¹¹ *Test. Ebor.*, vol. iii, p. 240, Note.

¹² Rex &c. Escætori &c. Quia Johannes Townley Miles filius et heres Ricardi Townley Militis defunct. qui de Domino Edw: nup' Regis Angliæ 4^{to} tenet in Capite dicunt se plene etatis esse et petiit a nobis terre et tenement⁹ que sunt de hereditate sua et nup' in custodia Caroli Pilkington Militis jam defunct. ex cōmissione dicti nup' Regis usq' ad plenam etatem ejusdem Joh'is, Per quod volumus, quod idem Johan'es Townley qui apud Townley in Comit⁹ Lanc. Nat: et in Eccl'iæ de Burnley Baptizatus tibi p'cipimus quod ad scire fac. Edwardo Pilkington, Executor testamenti p'dicti Caroli si quod pro se habeat quare terre et tenement⁹ p'dit⁹ p'dicto Joh'is non reddere debemus. T. primo Marcii anno D. 15 H. 7. *Add. MS.* 30145, fo. 98, *Brit. Mus.*

Notwithstanding the early ante-nuptial engagement of the "boy lover" and his Gateford bride, their eldest son and successor was not born until the year 1499, when the father had attained his twenty-sixth year, although it is not improbable that daughters had been born before the son, whilst it may be assumed that the childhood contract had not been completed until the parties had arrived at a mature age.

After quitting the "Abbey school," Sir John Towneley probably received his youthful training under the Earl of Derby at Latham House, where so many of the eldest sons of Lancashire gentlemen were placed to be instructed in courtesy and loyalty, and to become, if it might be, like Sir Philip Sydney,

"——— the president
of nobleness and chivalrie."

He does not appear to have embraced a military life, although he had obtained the honour of knighthood before the year 1500. Whilst a young man we find him settled upon his ancestral estate, and spending his time in improving it. He lived occasionally at his wife's house near Worksop, and also at Towneley, but chiefly at Hapton. The castle, manor, and park of this place were acquired early in the thirteenth century by the De la Leghs, and passed from them to the Towneleys. Sir John was licensed by the King in the year 1497 (12 Hen. VII.) to build a tower, and to empark certain old enclosed lands within the Manor of Hapton, and in less than twenty

years he obtained another royal licence¹³ to empark a larger and more extensive circuit, embracing 1,100 Lancashire acres, being nearly all the open fields and wastes of the township. It thus became almost the largest park in the county, and in the year 1515 the copy-holders and others complained that their rights and privileges had been invaded. He appears to have considered himself as the manorial lord entitled to the soil and to all the royalties; but the subordinate owners of properties, consisting of messuages, cottages, or their sites or appurtenances within the manor, also considered themselves entitled to right of common upon the unenclosed wastes, whilst the Knight, unreasoning and contentious, made no division or allotment, neither did he recognise any rights. The whole question has lost its interest, and it may be dismissed by stating that Sir John appears to have ignored the relation between the lord and the tenants. Popular dislike evidently became strong, and the old Lancashire character

¹³ Henricus dei gratia &c. Sciatis quod nos de gratia nr'a speciali concessimus et Licentiam dedimus dilecto et fideli nostro Johanni Towneley militi pro corpore nr'o quod ipse et heredes sui ad voluntatem suam omnia et singula feoda dominia terr' et Tenementa sua in villa sive hamletta et campis de Hapton infra p'ochiam de Whalleij imparcare et palis fossis et sepibus includere et parcum inde facere possit ac possint Et parcum illum sic inclusum tenere possit et possint sibi et heredibus suis imp'petuum cum omnibus p'tinentibus absq' molestatione heredum aut successorum nostrorum Ita quod nullus parcum illum ad fugandum aut venandu' in eo intret sine licentia ipsius Johannis Towneley aut heredum suorum In Testimonium &c. Teste meipso apud Lanc' ultimo die mensis Novembris Anno regni nostri sexto 1514 Wreydon. Jur' p' billam manu dn'i regis signatum. *Add. MS.* 30145, fo. 82, *Brit. Mus.*

(rough and honest) evinced itself in feuds, which were fierce and long protracted, and neither his public proceedings nor general character prevented the copy-holders feeling that injustice and wrong had been done by the strong-handed and opulent knight.¹⁴ What took place at Hapton was also carried out by him in other parts of his estate. Owing to his enclosures in and about Towneley, which were popularly regarded as illegal encroachments upon the rights of copy-holders to common, turf, underwood, and other small privileges, perhaps at that time ill-defined and imperfectly understood, he was regarded as tyrannical in his proceedings and a hard man. In the 16 Hen. VIII. Madame Ann Birtwistle of Huncote Hall, a doughty widow, and her son Richard, with the help of his mother's relations, the Starkeys of Simondstone, after many disputes and contentions with Sir John, prosecuted him in the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster for lands which they maintained he held in Huncote wrongfully, and which were claimed as their right, and for which they obtained a verdict.¹⁵ According to the view of retribution held by his neighbours, he was boldly denounced as an agent of the Evil One, who would hardly deserve Christian burial with bell, book, and candle; but who would be conveyed away bodily by his master when the final hour came, and that the popular malediction would disturb his repose even in the grave. The tradition in the neighbourhood of Burnley accord-

¹⁴ *Hist. Whalley.*

¹⁵ *Duch. Lanc. Record*, vol. ii, No. 7.

ingly was, that his unhappy spirit visited "the pale glimpses of the moon," and, as the phrase was, "walked" or wandered in the neighbourhood of his ill-acquired lands.¹⁶ The belief in ghosts and apparitions was general at this time in and about Burnley and Whalley Abbey, and Bishop Pilkington, in 1564, stated that even the better educated classes firmly believed, and vigorously maintained, the popular superstition.¹⁷

Notwithstanding these defects and other supposed failings of a personal character, he was not indifferent to what he considered to be his religious duties. He believed in what he professed to believe. In Whalley Abbey he had been taught to adhere to the old traditional faith of his ancestors, the clerical deans of Whalley, and it had never been questioned by him. Like Abbot Paslew, Sir John was a great builder, as his church works at Burnley, his houses at Towneley, Hapton, and Ightenhill, bear witness. In the year 1500 he rebuilt and founded a Chantry Chapel within a parclose in the east end of the north aisle of Burnley Church for the welfare of the souls of his father and mother, Sir Richard and Dame Joan Towneley and others.¹⁸ He built a house for

¹⁶ Notes, p. 25, note 50.

¹⁷ *Letters*.

¹⁸ The following nomination of John Ingham, priest, to this chantry, was made by the founder. For a notice of Ingham and his chantry, see *Hist. Lanc. Chantries*, p. 149, Chetham series.

Omnibus Xp'i fidelibus &c. Johannes Towneley Miles Salutem &c. Cantariano p'petuane in Capellam de Brunley septem Marcarum Annui reditus de certis terris et Tenementis cum P'tinenciis prout in cartis triptitis mei Johannis militis predicti continetur fundatam pro salute

the priest, to which he annexed a garden near the church-yard. It is not quite clear, but probable, that a school of grammar, or music, or both, was connected with his foundation.¹⁹ He also rebuilt the choir of the church in 1502;²⁰ and, doubtless, in 1533 he would aid in rebuilding or erecting the north aisle. He also built two of the four turrets on the north side of his quadrangular mansion of Towneley as well as a gateway, a domestic chapel, and a sacristy with a library over it. It may be added that these latter consecrated works were carefully removed to their present situation by Charles Towneley, who died in 1711. The domestic chapel is still used, and it was, doubtless, Sir John who obtained some of the antique and curious needle-work vestments said by tradition to have been brought from Whalley Abbey at the dissolution, and which are still preserved with becoming reverence at Towneley. Sir John's church works, as far as they have been allowed to remain, were not remarkable for their richness or architectural beauty. The designs were of a debased style, and possess no interest as works of art, and could hardly have emanated from his uncle Bernard Towneley, afterwards clerk of the works at St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

anime meæ ac antecessorum et successorum meorum prout in ipsa compositione plenius continetur Dedi et concessi intuitu caritatis Johanni Ingham capellano, quam diu honest' vixerit, cum omnibus suis p' tinenciis quod omnia ornamenta Cantarie predictæ sustinebit, toto tempore vite sue.

In Testimonium Sigillu' meu' apposui. Dat. ultimo die Maii A° H. 7 quinto decimo, 1500. *Add. MS.* 30145, fo. 83, *Brit. Mus.*

¹⁹ *Hist. Lanc. Chuntries*, p. 150, Note.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 148.

Probably the stained glass of the windows perished with the convulsions of his own or of the following century. No blazoning of arms on shields, bosses or ceilings, no old monumental figures, no traces of red or gold mural colouring, or other interesting relics remain, except the original inscription in **black letters** on the oak screen of the chantry chapel.²¹ Those who remember this chapel sixty years ago, before recent alterations in the church, will, no doubt, call to mind a certain picturesque effect, a venerable gloominess, associated with bye-gone arrangements, which no renovated structure, however perfect in its architectural details, can ever present.

It was in the year 1519 that John Nowell, of Read, Esq., Father of Dr. Alexander Nowell, Dean of S. Paul's, vested in Sir John Towneley, to whom he was first cousin, two rent charges of xiii^s iiiii^d each, for the endowment of a Chantry in each of the churches of All Saints, Whalley, and S. Peter's, Burnley, for the celebration, it might be, as the endowment was so small, of a monthly mass for the souls of himself, his parents, Roger Nowell (ob. 1486), and Grace his wife, daughter of Sir Richard Towneley and others,²² John Nowell survived until the year 1526, and his widow afterwards became the wife of Charles,²³ second son of Sir John Towneley.

²¹ *Hist. Lanc. Chant.*, p. 148, note 45. ²² *Ibid.*, p. 239, note.

²³ Charles Towneley was the second son of Sir John, and was born about the year 1502, having married Elizabeth, daughter of — Kay of Rochdale (see Note 55, p. 26), and widow of John Nowell of Read, Esq. The dispensation for the marriage is dated 20 December, 1527.

At this time people were looking unfavourably upon these Chantry foundations, and the clerical mind itself was undergoing a revolutionary change, far seeing men, like Hugh Oldham, Dean Colet, Archbishop Rotherham, and others, turning their alms and offerings into another channel, which had been opened by the discovery of the art of printing. However laudable some of the objects of these Chantries undoubtedly were, and we are too much accustomed to forget their mixed nature and design, they were all rashly ignored, and paled before the eager demand for Grammar Schools, literary study, and the primitive tenets of Religious faith. Sir John Towneley was the contemporary of Caxton, Wynkin de Worde

He held lands from his father named in the rental (pp. 8, 26, Note 55). He left issue, one son, John, the uterine brother of Dean Nowell, and afterwards celebrated for his political sufferings on account of his religious creed. His portrait, still at Towneley, has been engraved in Churton's *Life of Nowell*, and in the third edition of Whitaker's *Whalley*. His Will is dated 9 April, 1539, about a fortnight before the date of his father's Will, and was proved in London in the following year. "In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sanctus Amen. I Charles Townley of Townley Esq^r sicke in bodye but of sound mind"—desires to be buried in the Church of Burnley—bequeaths to his worshipful Father Sir John Townley Knight "my blacke Nag"—to Bertyn Hoppwood and Roger Hoppwood either of them ten marks—to Sir John Aspden Priest 6/8^d "to say Masse for the health of my soule—the rest of my goods I give to John Townley my Son—and I make Elizabeth my wife and the said John Townley Executors desiring my worshipful Father to be overseer—Witnesse whereof Henry Houghton gent. S^r Peter Adlington, S^r Gilbert ffairbanke, S^r John Aspden, Priests, Barton Hoppwood, Roger Hoppwood, Thomas Watmough. Also I bequeath unto Thomas Watmough 6/8^d, and unto James Walke' 6/8." *Add. MS.* 30145, fo. 363, *Brit. Mus.*

(who is said to have printed 400 works, being patronized by the Countess of Richmond and Derby), and Pynson, and we have seen that he built a Library at Towneley, so that he would not be ignorant of such books as the "Colloquies" of Erasmus and his "Praise of Folly," which were everywhere read, and which hastened the reform of the Church. Nor may it be forgotten, that his son Richard possessed a copy of the celebrated "Paraphrase," which had probably modified his own creed, and he thought the work sufficiently important to be bequeathed as a legacy to a clergyman of the Reformed faith. Sir John would know something of the ardent German Reformers and of their earnest but more sober English disciples, but he witnessed the spoliation of the Abbey, under whatever pretext, endeared to him by youthful and pleasant memories, saw the old Abbot executed, the Monks turned adrift, the School closed, and the exercise of a wide hospitality brought suddenly to an end, and all this did not tend to increase his regard for the Reformation, its agents, or their avowed principles. He saw also the Parliament in 1534 assign the "first fruits" of the Clergy to the King, and two years afterwards, lest they should publicly remonstrate, he saw the clerical order excluded from Parliament. He avoided the Pilgrimage of Grace, but we can hardly suppose that he did not sympathise with its origination, as his faith remained unchanged through all the vicissitudes of the times.

Had he foreseen the coming storm, he would probably not have surrendered the Deeds and original License of

Henry VI. for the foundation of Padiham Chantry "for safe custody to the Abbot and Convent of Whalley for ever,"²⁴ and he lived to see his mistake. He had not discerned "the signs of the times," nor discovered that the reform of some old abuses was inevitable, as the shrill cry for reform had extended throughout the land, and it is obvious that both Whalley and Towneley had disregarded it. With the lapse of years the cry gathered volume and meaning, until designing men introduced a Political element, by which the reasonable views of moderate churchmen were overpowered by the Court, and justice, law, and order were scattered to the winds.

Sir John may be claimed as an early pioneer of what in modern times has been called the Free and open Church system, although he took care first to secure what he conceived to be his own right. During some family dissensions, for all the persons named were his relatives and connections, he was called in as an arbitrator to regulate the sittings in Whalley Church, and having determined where he himself would sit when he attended divine service, and having allocated three other places to three opulent parishioners, without the interposition of Vicar or Churchwardens, he pronounced the long-remembered dictum—"and for the residue the use shall be, *first come, first speed*, and that will make the proud wives of Whalley rise betimes to come to Church,"²⁵ from which it may reasonably be inferred that the contention had

²⁴ *Hist. Lanc. Chant.*, p. 142, note. *Hist. Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 49.

²⁵ *Hist. Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 12. *Ibid*, vol. i, p. 307.

arisen amongst the ladies of the Parish. This incident occurred about the year 1534, and proves that pews in parish churches were not originally a Puritan innovation. Sir John claimed his privilege in right of his royal manor of Hapton, and his imperious verdict remained undisputed by any of the Parishioners of Whalley.

This village autocrat not only looked sharply after his own rights in his various Manors, but he did not forget those of the Crown. He was a lessee of the Manor and Park of Ightenhill, an ancient demesne of Clitheroe Castle, at that time vested in the Crown, and the old Manor house of the Lacys, as well as the domestic Chapel, had become, through time and neglect, much dilapidated and the buildings generally ruinous. About the year 1522-3 he voluntarily applied for an Inquisition of Survey avowedly in the interest of the Crown, and by so doing, although his share of the expense was not inconsiderable, he probably secured himself from obligations and charges more important. At the instance of the King's Receiver, through the Council of the Duchy, the buildings were partly restored and the house rendered habitable. The foundations of the Manor house are still pointed out, but the buildings are gone, and this great tenancy passed from his son.

It was in the year 1530 that Tonge, the Herald, visited Lancashire, of which he has left us an account already printed by our Society. He encountered, from time to time, difficulties and annoyances, which to a London officer from the Court of Chivalry must have been

well-nigh intolerable. Amongst other old houses to be visited, and genealogies to be recorded, was Towneley. Sir John was an expert horseman, and, it may be, attached to field sports, which have always had many keen followers in his immediate neighbourhood. When the herald arrived at Towneley the knight was abroad, and he long, we may hope unconsciously, eluded the vigilance of the officer, "ryding all daie in that wylde contrie." It is not very clear from the phraseology of Tonge whether the knight had spent all the day in hunting, or Norroy all the day in riding, "in that wylde contrie" in search of him; but when he was found he superciliously regarded the herald as an intruder upon his time and occupation, and curtly observed that he "wold haue no note takyn of hym," and that there were no gentlemen in Lancashire save Lord Derby and Lord Monteagle, dismissing the representative of the Earl Marshal with a reward—it is not stated what official demand had been made—of a couple of shillings, which, in our day, might be represented by the same number of sovereigns. The herald's satisfaction was materially disturbed, and in the next Visitation of 1567 the College recorded no Towneley pedigree. A very cordial reception would Tonge have met with in the next century from the "indefatigable transcriber" and antiquarian attorney, Christopher Towneley of Moorhiles, and most vigorously would he have contested his ancestor's rash assertion that the only gentlemen in Lancashire were the Lord Derby and the Lord Monteagle, unless he had intended to maintain that no man was

entitled to be considered "of gentle blood" except he had a patent of nobility, an opinion which would have been opposed as equally untenable. Tonge would quietly smile at the knight's statement as he called to mind the long roll of the "untitled nobility" of Lancashire, whose lineage was no less ancient, nor their gallantry less conspicuous, than that of the two noble kinsmen of the reigning sovereign. Why Sir John should have ignored his own great descent from the Saxon Deans of Whalley, and the old Lacys, Earls of Lincoln, except through ignorance or indifference, remains unknown.

The wild and sterile moors around Towneley, which made so unfavourable an impression upon the herald, reminding him, it may be, of a country once all desolate and barren "from Dan to Beersheba," as well as the swampy fields by the river, the pleasant resort of wild mallards,²⁶ and the slopes of the untrodden moorland, where fat geese (I can hardly think they were *gryse* or swine²⁷) were wont to eat grass rather than stubble, have long been cultivated and are now "with verdure clad," being interspersed with gigantic timber the growth of centuries, and some of it, not improbably, the careful planting of this very knight himself.

When Leland, a man of Lancashire descent, in his antiquarian tour visited Notts about the year 1533, he found Sir John residing at his wife's seat, Gateford Park, which is quaintly described as "a veri praty little howse stand-

²⁶ See p. 4, Note 23.

²⁷ See p. 5, Note 36.

inge in a Parke," so that the Knight although "for y^e most abiding in Lancastershyre,"²⁸ did not confine himself to his Northern demesnes, but probably divided his time and consumed the various produce of his estates by occasional residence, with his family and retinue, at his several houses.

Sir John Towneley had lawful issue two sons, Richard²⁹

²⁸ *Ilin.*, vol. v, p. 96.

²⁹ Richard Towneley, Esq., the eldest son and successor of Sir John, was born in the year 1499, and died in 1556 in his fifty-seventh year. He was, probably, churchwarden of Burnley, and if so, along with Laurence Habergham, in 1 Mary, officially prosecuted his own son, Sir Richard, for the restitution of church vestments and jewels belonging to Burnley Church, the same not being a chantry or free chapel; and at the same time Sir Richard brought his suit against Habergham for an alleged trespass on some demesne lands in Ightenhill Manor by the diversion of a watercourse. (*Duch. Lanc.*, vol. iii, No. 13, p. 282.) Richard Towneley makes no allusion to his creed in his Will, and bequeaths Erasmus' *Paraphrase* to a clerical Protestant friend. One of the first acts of Edw. VI. was to enjoin that an English *Bible* and Erasmus' *Paraphrase of the Gospels* should be placed in every parish church for the instruction of the people. It is almost difficult to resist the conclusion that Richard Towneley had embraced the Reformed Faith, especially when the strongly expressed creed of his father is remembered; and it is not to be overlooked that he is barely mentioned by his father in his Will, whilst the power of sole supervisor, with large trusts and specific devises, is invested in the grandson. In his Will, dated 7 February, 1555-6, he describes himself as "Richard Townley of Brinley, Esq.," and commits his soul to God and his body to be buried in the church or chapel of Brinley. "I make," he proceeds, "John Townley of Gray's Inn my nephew, Simon Haydocke of Hysandfourth gent, Ewan Haydocke my servant, and John Aspdene chaplain, my Executors, desiring my said nephew to be good to the said Ewan Haydock, to Ann, Ellin, and Mary, daughters of the late Alice Brinley, deceased, and bastard daughters to me the said Richard, and to be to them as a Father, in regard to such acts and benefits as he shall

his successor, and Charles, before mentioned, and also six

receive from me. I have surrendered to John Woodroffe the younger, and John Ormeroid the younger, all my mess., lands, &c., in the Forest of Rossendale, called Swineshey and Donockshey, and v^d rent in Hinherds and Faerekell to the behoof of the said Ewan Heydocke and James Roberts of Brindley, as Trustees, according to the custom of the Manor of Accrington, to the use of the said Ann, Ellin, and Mary, their heirs and ass. paying the fines to the King or Queen. Goods divided into two parts. "I give one part to Hugh Halsted and Grace his wife, my dau. in name of her marriage portion, and out of the other part these legacies viz. to said Ewan Heydock 5 marks, to said Simon Heydock and John Aspden for their pains as my Exors. 40^s/ a piece, to John, son of Isabel wife of Thomas Benthams, called and taken to be my bastard son, 40^h/, to Elisabeth daughter of George Jackson, 20[/], to Agnes Roberts my servant, 40^s/, to William Hulington (Haslington?) my servant, 40^s/'. And the residue of my moiety of the goods, after funeral expences and legacies discharged, I give to the said Ann, Ellin, and Mary. I give to the said Elizabeth, 40^s/, to Thomas Trollege my servant, 20^s/, to John Townley, my nephew, my Lease of the Tythe Corn, demised to me by Ralph Asheton Esq., of the Parsonage of Whaley And a Lease demised to me by Edw. VI. dated 15 Dec. A° 1548 of certain Lands of the possessions of the late dissolved Chantry in the Church or Chapel of Brindley; I give to William Wilson, Clerke, Parson of Gandby, my booke called the Paraphrase of Erasmus, to John Ingham, son of John Ingham, owing by me 10 marks, to John Ingham, the elder, a Horse or 40[/], to John Baron, Lawrence Baron, Charles Michail, James Walton, my servants, 6/8^d a piece, to Gyles Heydock, 40^s/, to John Jackson my tenant, 6/8, to Nycholas Swaynson, 6/8^d, to Laurence Laurence, 3^s/ owing by me, to John Roberts of Foxstones 4 marks, to Sir Stephen Smith, 20^s/, to Johan Townley my bastard dau., 40^s/, owing to Henry Roberts, 10^s/, to Johan Wilson, 6/8^d. Item owing to William Kenion, Baron of the Exchequer, in Land 20 marks, to John Townley, otherwise called Doneley, 40^s/, to said Hugh Halsted and his assigns, all my term in a close or parcel of ground in Hapton called the Ghogge Holmes, he paying to me and my assigns the accustomed rent. Witness, &c., Dated 7 Febr. A° dn'i 1555, 1 and 2 Philip and Mary. Add. MS. 30145, p. 119; Brit. Mus.; *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxvii, Wills.

daughters. His wife Isabella died in 1522, and he mar-

When this Will was made Sir Richard, the son of the testator, was dead, and had left an only surviving daughter, who, however, is not mentioned in this Will of her grandfather. There is abundant proof that Sir Richard Towneley was a most litigious man. During his brief life he had to maintain or contest, at least, fourteen law suits in the court of the Duchy, and John Towneley, a young lawyer of Gray's Inn, long the deputy steward, for Sir Thomas Talbot, of the Hundred of Blackburn, and steward of several Manorial courts, and who, afterwards, became the husband of Sir Richard's daughter, had to maintain suits and sometimes to defend them against his future father-in-law, and who, notwithstanding these legal squabbles, settled the old hereditary estates upon him. (See Note 29, p. 20.) Sir Richard was born about the year 1512, married in 1536, and, having been knighted in the Scotch wars of Henry VIII, died in 1554.

His Will is dated the 26 July, 1553, wherein he styles himself "Richard Towneley of Towneley Knight" and apparently he had embraced the Reformed Faith which had been so vigorously opposed by his Grandfather. He commences, "I give my Soul to Almighty God my Maker and Redeemer by whose grace and mercy and by the merits of Christ his passion I trust to be saved, and my body to be buried in the Parish Church of Brunley within the Chappell on the North syde of the Church com'only called our Ladyes Chappell: Also I will my body to be brought forth honestlye and according as is meet and convenient." I bequeath to my sister Bennet 20*l*. and the residue of my goods I bequeath to Mary Towneley my daughter. I bequeath to John Towneley son and heir of Charles Towneley one close called Ightenhill Park with the appurt's and the Milnes of Burneley Padiham and Clitheroe if I die without heirs male of my body. And where' Sir Richard Sherburne Sr John Nevill Knts Thomas Hesketh and Robert Dalton Esq^{rs} are enfeoffed of certain copyhold Lands called the Filley close they shall surrender the same into the hands of two tenants of the Manor of Ightenhill who shall surrender again to Henry Towneley son and heir of Lawrence Towneley Esq. &c. See p. 20, Note 29. He appointed his well beloved wife Frances Towneley, and John Towneley, Executors. *Add. MS.*, 30,145, fo. 113, Brit. Mus.; *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xiv, p. 95.

ried secondly, in 1531, Ann one of the sixteen children of Ralph Catterall of Catterall and Little Mitton, Esq., on whom, as on his first wife, who had been well provided for by his father, he settled an annuity of 20*l.*, her own estate being in her own power. She had no issue, and married, after Sir John's death, William, afterwards Sir William Radcliffe of Ordsall, Knt.³⁰ Sir John inherited the lands, faults, and immoralities of his father, and afterwards transmitted them unimpaired to his immediate successor. It is not unworthy of notice that their base-born children in their respective generations were contracted in marriage by their several parents, with the sanction of the Church, amongst the oldest and best of the local hereditary families, who did not disdain to form alliances with individuals bearing the bend sinister, and who are mentioned in their fathers' Wills, without the record being deemed either derogatory or dishonourable. Several of these are mentioned in the Rental as holding their lands by some chief rent or other tenure from Towneley, and they are somewhat inappropriately chronicled in the printed Pedigree of the family.

An episode in the life of Sir John Towneley may here be recorded, although some of the circumstances connected with it would, in the retrospect, revive in his mind painful memories. Sir John was aware of the unhappiness which had not unfrequently arisen under his own eye, and in his own family, out of the early marriage contracts, both of their legitimate and illegitimate issue,

³⁰ *Hist. Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 22.

and in the following instance the misery continued after the lapse of half a century, and after Sir John had passed away.

These startling details are taken from the depositions on oath of respectable witnesses in a case exhibited to the Archbishop of York and the Queen's Commissioners for Causes Ecclesiastical, in the year 1568, and afterwards in 1572, before Robert Leche, LL.D., Vicar General of the Bishop of Chester. The case was against Ralph Rishton of the Manor House of Dunkenhalth, Esq., a man at that time advanced in years, at the suit of one of his wives. He was the head of one of the oldest, richest, and best-descended families in the neighbourhood of Towneley, and closely connected with Sir John Towneley by his marriage as well as by various ties. It appeared in the evidence that Sir John Towneley was present in Altham Church, in the year 1516, when Ralph Rishton, the eldest son of Roger Rishton of Dunkenhalth, Esq., being of the age of nine years, and Helen Towneley, a child of ten years, were publicly married by Sir John Radcliffe, the Curate. The little boy was arrayed in brave wedding apparel, and there were present, John Paslew, Abbot of Whalley, Sir John Towneley, Knt., John Talbot, Esq., Roger Rishton, Esq., Nicholas and Richard Towneley, Gentlemen, and divers other men of great worship. The custom then was for the kinsfolk of the parties when married on a Sunday to dine and keep the wedding feast upon the following day. And so Adam Holden, Esq., stated that his Father and Mother, Gilbert and Grace Holden, and his brother, Sir Thomas Holden, Clerk, Mr. Sherburne, Esq., Sir John Towneley, and others, assembled at the house of Nicholas Towneley, Esq., a trustee and uncle of Sir John, grandfather of the said Adam, and also grandfather of the said Helen, where she and her young husband were at the wedding dinner, and where they continued to dwell for two years next following. In the year 1517, the said Nicholas died, when the young couple were

removed to Royle, the house of Richard Towneley, Esq., father of Helen, where they remained until they were respectively 15 and 16 years old, living together, sitting at table together, and being regarded by every body as man and wife. Thomas Willison of the Parish of Whalley, æt 63, deposed that he saw Sir John Towneley and other relatives present at Church, and at the wedding feast, and knew all the parties well, as he himself was at the time suitor by way of marriage to Grace Towneley of Royle, sister of Helen, and was very often at Royle. When Ralph Rishton became 16 years old he was sent, as gentlemen's sons were accustomed, to Sir Ralph Assheton's of Middleton, to learn the use of arms and for breeding. Having staid there with other young gentlemen about three years, he went with Sir Thomas Talbot, as a petty Captain to the Prince's Wars in Scotland, and was present at Gray Cote, but whilst he was at Middleton he often came to see and live with his wife, and they were greatly devoted to each other. In the meantime her Father died, and "she became verie pensive," and the "heavie grieve occasioned by the long absence of her husband," worked upon her mind and affected her reason. On his return home Captain Rishton heard that his wife had lost her reason and had gone mad, and although she vehemently desired to see him he refused her prayer, and she continued distraught until her death. She always loved him very tenderly, and there never was any "falling out atwene 'em." Ralph Rishton now formed an illicit attachment to Mrs. Elizabeth Parker, daughter of a gentleman living at Horrockford, near Clitheroe, and a marriage if it could be had, had become a necessity. Roger Rishton, the Father of Ralph, and Mrs. Parker, the mother of the unhappy girl, eagerly sought to obtain a Divorce on the ground of the Insanity of Helen, but Dr. George Wylmslow, the Chancellor of Chester (Father of Bishop Bonner), sternly refused the application. The next appeal was made to Mr. Richard Smyth, LL.B., Rector of Bury, Pope Clement's official in Lancashire (apparently the Tetzels for such indulgences), and he decreed that, Helen being mad, if her

lawful guardian and next relative would consent to a Divorce, he would grant a Dispensation for the purpose. At that time Sir John Towneley was dead, but his Grandson Sir Richard Towneley, Kt., apparently a military friend of Ralph Rishton, and one who had "the government" of his relative, the said Helen, having been applied to, acceded to the request and sent his man Nicholas Whitacre of Burnley, Yeoman, and Geoffrey Rishton, to the Pope's Official at Bury, who on certain terms and with a facility unknown at Court, granted a "Dispensation of Divorce" (which cost ⁱⁱⁱⁱl), and the parties were married forthwith in Clitheroe Church. In this state they lived for eight years and had issue six children, one of whom about 1572 was Curate of Blackburn, but died shortly afterwards unmarried. Eleven years after this pretended marriage, Giles Dewhurst, who had been Captain Rishton's servant "in the wars," riding out one day in the spring of the year 1554 from Towneley or Burnley with his master to Dunkenhalth Hall, and passing by the cottage of Widow Ann Sutcliffe (Aunt of Mr. Thomas Willisill, who had seen his relative Sir John Towneley and others present at the wedding many years before,) where Helen, deserted by her husband, lonely and broken hearted, at that time sojourned, "one came hastily forth of the said house, and running after Mr. Rishton, called upon him, and willing him to come directly and see his poor wife, meaning Helen, if he would see her on life," but he refused, hurried forward, and with "petrified feelings," rode on to Dunkenhalth. Dewhurst, however, turned back, alighted from his horse, went into the house and saw the said Helen upon her death-bed, and tarried until she departed out of this world, she having entered into her eight and thirtieth year, and his Master and Elizabeth Parker having then been married seven or eight, or more, years.

It now suited this hardened profligate to repudiate his recognized wife Parker on the specious ground that scruples tormented his mind, as they did the mind of his virtuous Sovereign with regard to his first marriage, owing to Rishton's first wife Towneley being living when he married his second. Witnesses

deposed that of their own personal knowledge he had married Mrs. Ann Stanley, daughter of Sir James Stanley of Holt Hall, near Blackburn, Knt., and that they lived together in the bonds of matrimony. The arbitrary nature of these early marriages and the laxity of opinion which prevailed amongst the educated laity regarding "a state of life" which the Roman Catholic Church had invested with the holy attributes of a Sacrament, the sequel of this "strange eventful history" abundantly proves.

Mr. Thomas Duckworth of Altham, formerly in the army with Sir Thomas Talbot, Knt., deposed that within a month after Midsummer day in the year 1554, the Lady Ann Stanley sent him, being her servant, to divers of her kinsmen to bid them to the marriage of Mrs. Ann Stanley her daughter with Mr. John Rishton of Pontalgh. And when he had done what his mistress and lady commanded he returned home in the night time, and came about midnight and told the Lady Ann that her kinsfolk would meet her wishes according to her appointment. Whereupon she prepared herself and went suddenly to Mrs. Ann her daughter and commanded her to rise and make herself ready to go to church to be married to John Rishton. Mrs. Ann took the matter very heavily and came with great haste to the said Duckworth and desired him for the love of God to convey her away to her lawful husband Ralph Rishton of Dunkenhalgh. She made great lamentation, and he knowing very well how the matter stood was "suddenly stricken in a dampe" and knew not what to do, for if he conveyed her away he should disobey his mistress and incur her sore displeasure, and yet he wished to serve Mrs. Ann, now soon to become a mother, and also her husband Raphe Rishton. Fear, however, obtained "the upper hand" with him, and the Captain at that time "being so much holden at under by Sir Thomas Talbot his master, and half brother to the said Mrs. Ann," that he durst not convey her away, although both she and her husband "had practised with him about the same," seeing that Raphe himself was "so fainte" in the same matter, fearful of his Master Sir Thomas, but still more so of the Lady Stanley his mistress' mother. The same morning in

the early dawn Mrs. Ann was placed on horseback and sent to the Chapel of Harwood to be married, being conducted thither by two of the Lady Stanley's men and four of Sir Thomas Talbot's, and marriage was there and then openly solemnized, apparently without Banns, License, or Dispensation, in the dawning of the day between her and John Rishton of Pontalgh, "sore against her will, many salt tears all the tyme gushinge and distilling from her eies owing to the evill will she had to the said marriage." — *Lanc. MSS.*

Various circumstances are minutely recorded in connection with this extraordinary marriage, but it is well to leave some frightful scenes undescribed and unexplained. The marriage was probably not consummated, and a divorce was obtained at Chester, 15 Nov. 1560, when it was stated that the parties had been contracted when young. The compulsion was attributed to Sir Thomas Talbot,³⁰ as well as to his lady mother, who had been

³⁰ Edmund Talbot of Bashall, Esq., married Ann, sister of Sir Percival Dyke of Lullingstone Castle, in the county of Kent, Knt., and left issue a son, afterwards Sir Thomas Talbot, Knt. The widow Talbot married before 22 Henry VIII. James Stanley, Esq., third son of George, Baron Strange, K.G., and in that year she and her husband obtained the wardship of her son Thomas Talbot. By her Will, dated November 20, 1557, she describes herself as Dame Ann Stanley, widow of Sir James Stanley, and after trifling legacies to servants, bequeaths the residue to "S^r Thomas Talbot Knt., my sonne" and mentions no other child. In a trial concerning a private chapel in Blackburn Church, heard at Chester, 17 March, 1611-12, between Sir Thomas Walmsley, Knt., and John Talbot of Salesbury, Esq., the second witness examined was "Ann Rishton of Ormskirk parish, Widow, æt. 80 years. She deposed that she had known for 70 years a Lordship in Blackburn Parish called Rishton in which was an ancient capital messuage called Holt Hall which was moated about and that Dame Ann Stanley Mother of S^r Thomas Talbot was buried in the North side of the Holt Chapel — that the Lady Stanley was wife of Edmund Talbot of Bashall Father of

apparently born without nerves, and who, in our day, would have been called a strong-minded woman. Her keen antipathy to Raphe Rishton and his scandalous proceedings induced her to act towards her daughter in this inhuman and unjustifiable manner. John Rishton was compensated for the loss of Mrs. Ann by being lawfully married to her sister Alice, another daughter of Sir James Stanley. In after years the wife Parker prosecuted the contemptible Captain for alimony, but, as might have been expected, failed in her suit. Not one of the three, under happier circumstances, was an unequal match, but they all ended in disappointment and misery. Towneley had no child, Parker had six, and Stanley two, children, but the father lived to see them all removed by death, not one being left to bear the indelible stain of a mother's shame and a father's perfidy.

Sir John Towneley possessed great local influence. In 1516 (7 Henry VIII.) he was one of the collectors, for Lancashire, of the subsidy granted to the King, amounting to 110,000*l*.³¹ Before the year 1500 he had obtained

Sir Thomas, and that in right of Dower she held the Messuage of Holt and that on coming there she put Feilden the tenant out of the house and placed him in the Gate house. The deponent being daughter to the Lady Stanley and at her Burial came with the corpse to Blackburn Church. Sir Thomas Talbot her half brother died at Hawdley Hall in Blackburn where the deponent then dwelt, and his daughter Ann, married William ffarington of Worden Esq. servant to the Earl of Derby." *Lanc. MSS.*

See also *Lanc. Funeral Certif.*, p. 33, Note 24, and reverse Pontalgh and Dunkenthalgh. Ralph was of the latter, John of the former house.

³¹ *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xiv, p. 94.

knighthood. In 1526, and probably before, he was in the commission of the peace for the county. He was the high sheriff from the year 1532 to 1541, so that he must have recognized the royal supremacy. His long and uninterrupted tenure of this important office may have arisen from political considerations, and yet he was never returned as a Burgess to Parliament, nor elected a knight of the shire. In an eventful period he was not associated with statesmen given to change, nor do we find him participating, like some of his neighbours, in the popular sacrilege or in the oppression of the religious. He bought no abbey lands, and although he had leases both before and after the dissolution of Whalley Abbey he did not obtain any of the tithes of the church in fee. He was not employed in the Scottish wars, nor immediately engaged in the King's service at court.

He seems to have attended to his own business, married his children and grandchildren, as he himself had been married, whilst in a state of adolescence, as at that time love and liking went by law and the caprice of parents, and young men and maidens were required to put off their humanity, but not to disregard their offspring. Dr. Whitaker has observed that, "by an unhappy and preposterous arrangement Sir John Towneley selected the chaplain of his youth and the mistress of his old age from the same house." The domestic life of that age is little to be admired, and the morality of many country gentlemen in Lancashire, who were Sir John's

contemporaries, will not bear examination, but it may be doubted if Jenet Ingham was really the mistress of his "old age." He was left a widower at the age of 49, and in nine years afterwards married a second wife, so that the interval might be darkened by the rule of Miss Ingham, but we have no evidence that she shared his affections with a highly connected and virtuous wife, whom he appointed sole executrix of his Will, and whose temporal interests he was evidently more than ordinarily anxious should be protected and furthered by his grandson, under the most stringent injunctions and conditions. The provision made in his Will for masses to be said for the repose of his soul, and also the open confession of his faith, may lead us to hope that, after grave searchings of heart, he died in peace, and desired to take his final rest with his old lineage in the chapel which he had built in Burnley church, and thus keep alive the memory of the happy domestic ties which had existed in life, leaving all other differences and distinctions to be adjusted in another and better world.

The following is an abstract of his Will :

In Nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen. Vicesimo octavo die mensis Aprilis anno domini millesimo quingentesimo tricesimo nono, anno vero regni Henrici octavi, dei gratia Anglie et Francie Regis, fidei defensoris, domini Hibernie et in terra supremum caput Anglicane Ecclesie, tricesimo primo. I Sir John Towneley of Hapton in Com. Lanc. Knight make my testament and laste will in forme and maner hereafter following. First I bequeathe my soule to almightie God and our blessed lady St. Mary alway Virgine his mother & to all the Saintes in Heven, and my bodye to be buryed in the church of Brunley.

Also I will that a hundreth masses of the v woundes of our lord Ihesu Christ and a hundreth masses of the holy goost be gotten saide for my soule and the preestes which shold say the masses to have for every of the saide massies iiij^d and th' aforsaide massies to be gotten saide as sone after my decease as they can conveniently. Also I will that there be dealed at my burying convenient meate and drynke and all other costes necessary & charges concerninge my saide buryinge to be doon by thadvise of my Executour. Also I bequethe to my moost loving sone in lawe S^r Robert Nevill Knight the one of my best silver otynn pottes. Also to Grace wif of Sir Robert Hesketh, Knight, oon of my best silver spones, unto Richard Towneley son and here apparaunt of Richard Towneley Esquier who is son and heire apparaunt unto me the saide Sir John Towneley my silver basen and my silver Ewer, unto Jane Sherborne oon of my best silver spones, unto Jane Dalton wif of William Dalton Esquier two silver spones of my best sorte, unto Margaret Towneley my doughter one of my best spones, unto Elinor wife of Ewen Haydock another of my best spones, unto Anne Malom tenne merkes. Also I will and assigne the said Richard Towneley the sone and his heires and lordes of Towneley to have all my interest of the tieth granes and cornes of the parryshe of Bryenley of the chauntrey and leace of the late Abbot and Convent of the late monastery of Whalley and lately confermed by our said sovereyng lord the king, the tieth of Extwissill oonly except, paying thaccostumed fermes and rent I will that Robert Wade shall have the tyeth corne of Extisswell aforesaid, according as he hath hadde the same, and if he dye afore the said yeres shalbe expired, then the same to Henry Houghton. And if the said Henry die, then the said tyeth corne shall remayne unto the said Richard Towneley the yonger during all the said yeres, and he shall have all those landes and tenementes whiche I did lately give unto Charles Towneley, my sonne lately deceased, situate in Carverton, Worsopp and Woodsettes, and also all those landes whiche be nowe in the holding of John Kay, unto the said Richard Towneley, the yonger and his heires for ever. I will

and assigne John Towneley my brother to have all my interest of the graunt of the king by his letters patentes under his sealle of his Duchee of Lancaster bering date the xx^{ti} day of Maye in the xxij^{ti} yere of his graces reigne of and in one myne of Coolys w^{ti}n the kinges graces wast of Brunley called Brodech, to the said John Towneley my brother and his assignes duringe the terme of his naturall lif, paing the king's yerely rent, and if the said John Towneley my brother dye afore the lease expire I give the reversion to the said Richard Towneley. Also I will to the said Richard Towneley the yonger and his heires all my interest in a Lease dated the xxvij^{ti} day of Marche in the xvj^{ti} yere of his graces reigne of and in a certain grounde called Igthenhill parke with a tenement called cornefeild, and also in two water mills called Brunley and Clitherowe milles, and also paing unto my lovinge sonne in lawe Sir Robert Heskett, knight, all sommes of money specified in articles drowne betwixt me and the said Sir Robert Heskett bering date the xix^{ti} daye of Maye in the xxv^{ti} yere Henry 8, so that neither my fermers whiche do now inhabite the saide grounde called Igthenhill parke and the Cornefeild nor their wifes nor any of them shalbe removed from the occupation of those tenementes except it be of their voluntary will paing therfor unto the saide Richard Towneley the yonger and his heires thaccostomed rentes without any rewarde gressome or income. I will that Thomas Towneley my bastarde sonne shall have all my interest of the graunt of the kinge in one water mylle and oon fulling mylle situate within the Towneshipp of Colne, with all the commodities thereunto belonginge, and to come at his death unto the said Richard Towneley the yonger and his right heires. Also I will to the said Richard Towneley the yonger all my interest in one water mylne called padyham mylne yeelding to the King his rent reserved. Provided alwaie that if it fortune the said Richard Towneley the yonger and his heires and every of them do not supporte, ayde, maynteyne and sett forward to the uttirmost of their powers Dame Anne Towneley my wif and John Towneley my brother and all and singler bequestes, giftes

and grauntes, annuyties and feoffementes to my said wif and my said brother by me given and graunted as well with all suche friendship as the same Richard Towneley the yonger and his heires or any of them may gett, obtayne, minister or have in that behalf, as also their goodes and bodily labours, without any colour or feyning at all tymes to come and from tyme to tyme when and at what tyme they or any of them shalbe required thereunto by my said wife as by my said brother,—Then all my said grauntes, barganes and leaces whiche I have assigned to the said Richard Towneley the yonger and to his heires shall revert and come clerely to my said wif and to the said John Towneley my brother and to their assignes duringe the residewe of the yeres then not expired any article or articles in this my last will conteyned to the contrary notwithstanding. And also I give and bequeth the residewe of all my moveable goodes remayninge over my bequestes my funerall expenses contented and paid unto the saide Dame Anne my wif.

He revokes former Wills. And this my present last will euermore to stande in strength and virtue and affecte. Whereuppon I ordein and make my s^d wif my executrice to execute and fulfill the same as she will make answeere afore God at the most dreidfull daye of judgement. And also I do ordein and require the saide Richard Towneley the yonger to be supervisor of this my saide last will and to se that my saide executrice do well and justely execute the same. In witnes wherof I the saide Sr John Towneley have setto my seall and subscribed my name. Yeoven the day and yere above written. By me John Towneley Knyghte, Written with my owen hande.

Proved in London, 20 April, 1540, by the oath of Ralph Shuttillworth the Proctor of the Executrix therein named.
Probate Court, Somerset Ho. Reg. Alenger, fo. 14.

This Rental exhibits the low state of Agriculture in the North of England, and especially in South-East Lancashire, in the reign of Henry VIII. The license of land tenure was still arranged on the primitive mode of a rude

husbandry, and rent was partly paid in kind with personal services and feudal duties, and so continued for more than another century and a half. The measurement or specific extent of the land is not recorded in the Roll, but from the number of the tenants and the various holdings we may infer that the Rental almost represents the same estate in the same localities now possessed by the family. It may be reasonably supposed that no farms in the district would be better cultivated or be more productive under such a landlord, as they had been in the tenure or under the vigilant eye of the same family long anterior to the Plantagenet dynasty if not to pre-historic times. The real estates are not named in Sir John's Will, as he and his father had settled them on trustees, by deed, in tail male, unconditionally. At that time there were no provisions made for carrying out improvements, for planting, for buildings, or for the exercise of any power over the estate. Each head of the family enjoyed it during his life, and by a wise system of entailment and primogeniture no part of it was sold or diminished; but it descended from one generation to another, and the old tenants and their families continued their easy hereditary holdings, which it will be observed that Sir John in his Will did not overlook. The amount of the income, making due allowance for change in the value of the currency, seems to have been small during the time of Sir John Towneley, who appears nevertheless to have been what would now be called a practical agriculturist. He enclosed commons, rightly or wrongly, drained marshes, reclaimed wastes, and cleared woods. He was wishful to improve his cattle and

to increase the number of his stock ; his sheep, as the Roll shows, amounting in 1535 to four hundred.³² His son Richard succeeded to some of his agricultural stock, and in the 1 and 2 Philip and Mary, prosecuted his (Richard's) daughter-in-law, Dame Frances Towneley, widow, Alexander Radcliffe and Robert Rede, Esqs., for certain sheep which had been, it was held, illegally distrained upon by them, and replevied, on Clivacher Moor, in Hapton,³³ which shows that some family misunderstanding at that time existed. It may be inferred that Sir John laboured to increase his income and to extend his power, and his Will proves that he had already made provision for his younger son, and had given marriage portions with his daughters, and that he left his copyhold estate charged with neither mortgages, annuities, rent-charges, nor bonds. Mr. Hallam says that a great rise of rents took place in the reign of Henry VIII., and that the usual price of land half a century before was ten years' purchase.³⁴

At his death on the 5th March, 1539-40, Sir John's whole income from his Burnley estate appears, from the Rental now printed, to have amounted, in money only, to 104*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* per annum. The same estate, when stripped of all additions by purchase or enclosure, was estimated to be worth, in the year 1800, 3000*l.* a year, and it is said now, with its mineral wealth, to exceed ten times that sum.

F. R. R.

³² *Rental*, p. 6.

³³ *Duch. Lanc. Office*, vol. iii, No. 11.

³⁴ *State of Soc. in Europe*, chap. ix.

RENTAL OF BURNLEY, IGHTENHILL,

&c.

Dated 1st January 27. Hen: 8. (1535-6.)

M^d That this Rentalle was made the ffirst daye off January in
the xxvijth yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the viijth.

The ffermez of y^e p'sh off Břnley. anno p'dict:

In p'mis.

Jamys holt	xliiij ^s x ^d
John wod	xxviiij ^s ij ^d
Iřm omfrey ynghm	xxj ^s vj ^d
Iřm Robert ynghm	viiij ^s vij ^d
Iřm John ynghm	xviij ^s viij ^d
Iřm Richard Robert	xviij ^s viij ^d
Iřm Richard claton	xx ^s
Iřm Jamys estwod }	xx ^s
Iřm Thomas estwod }	
Iřm John estwood	xij ^s iiij ^d
Iřm John Lee	x ^s
Iřm Edmund Lee	x ^s
Iřm Lařres estewod	x ^s
Iřm Thomas gwyttles	vij ^s viij ^d
Iřm John Robart	v ^s
Iřm Jamys Swane	vj ^s iij ^d
Iřm John Parker	ij ^s
Iřm Edward Parker.....	ij ^s vj ^d
Iřm Mast ^r Dene ^l	ij ^s

S^m^a xij^{li} vj^s iij^d. [ij^d]

M^d the bone henne² ys iij schore³ & xij. The sōme in mōney.

Iĥm the scherryng⁴ ys xxxvj days. ys xxij^s.

Iĥm the maw yng⁴ ys xij days.

M^d the sōme of thys rennte at qwyssonday ys vj^{li} iij^s x^d ob.

Iĥm the sōme at Martynmas ys xij^{li} v^s x^d ob.

S^m^a total in the yer⁹ ys xij^{li} viij^s viij^d.

M^d the fre fferme of brunley parch⁵ anno p'dicto.

In p'mys. Wyllyā hyrstewod of hyrstewod⁶ j^d

Iĥm Laūres nutter of y^e north banke xij^d ob.

Iĥm Wyllyā halstyd of Worsterne iij^d

Iĥm Wyllyā folds of brunley Wode j^d

Iĥm Robert Wylkynson of hvrstewode⁶ xij^d

Iĥm Thomas Hey p gemholle ij^s vj^d

Iĥm Ryc^d qhyttel⁷ for grymshay j^d

Iĥm John walschay for otterhed lande xij^d ob.

Iĥm Laūres halstyd for Roley⁷ iij^s iij^d ob.

Iĥm Luce Jackson for y^e hele hetts iij^s

Iĥm Wyllyā Smythe for Robynson londe v^d

Iĥm Nycolas helay for Hele place⁸ vj^d

Iĥm Wyllyā bercrofte⁹ for land in Wersterne xij^d ob.

Iĥm vj^d Edward bregge for brunle wode j^d

S^m^a xv^s x^d.

M^d the fferme of Haptone.¹⁰ anno p'dicto.

In p'mys. Ryc^d Byrtwysleye¹¹ xxxij^s viij^d

Iĥm Henr⁹ Robart xxxj^s vj^d

Iĥm Edward Robart xvj^s viij^d

Iĥm John Heys xx^s

Iĥm Jamys bothe..... xx^s

Iĥm Lāures Heys..... xvj^s iij^d

Iĥm John Pollard..... x^s viij^d

Iĥm John Gale xl^s

Iĥm Wyllyā claton xx^s

Iĥm Gorge Pollard xl^s

Iſm Wyllſyā Smythe xvj^s viij^d
 Iſm Wyllſyā Rabschay¹² xvj^s viij^d
 Iſm Henr: Wylkynſon xx^d

S̄mā. xiiij^{li} ij^s x^d.

M^d the bone henns iij ſchorr⁹ & vj
 Iſm the bone ſherryng ys xxxiiij days } the ſome in money
 Iſm the mawyng ys xij days } ys xx^s ij^d

M^d the qwite rentt of Hapton to Edmund Aſſheton¹³
 & Shacirley.¹³

for byrtwysle & a gardene in the eſſe krofte¹⁴... v^s ij^d

Iſm to Nycolas Shetyllworthe¹⁵..... v^d

and thys rentte to be payd at Martynmas.

M^d the ſome of the rentte at qwyſſonday ys ... vij^{li} iij^s xj^d

Iſm the ſome at Martynmas ys viij^{li} iij^s ix^d

S̄mā total de claro¹⁶ in y^e yer⁹ ys xv^{li} viij^s viij^d.

M^d the ffre ferme of Hapton. anno p'dicto.

In p'mis. Edmund Aſſheton iijj^s vj^d

and iij broddharro hedds.

Iſm Robart Shacarley iijj^s vj^d

and ij broddharro hedds.

Iſm Thomas Lyster. a broddharro hed.

Iſm Thomas Parker..... iijj^s vj^d

Iſm a pare of Spors.

Iſm Hugh Habergam for bradley¹⁷ xvj^s iijj^d

Iſm Ryc^d byrtwysle of bentley wodgrene iij^s

Iſm Thomas Ryley j^d and a pare of gloves.

Iſm Thomas Robart¹⁸ for the collyn horſe¹⁹ ij^d

S̄mā xxxiiij^s viij^d [j^d] and vj broddharro hedds.

and a pare of ſpors. (illegible.)

The fferme off ightenhill p'ke.²⁰ anno p'dcō.

In p'mis.

The Vicar of Rachedale²¹ iij^{li}

Iſm Thomas ffollds	xxxxxviij ^s xj ^d
Iſm Williā shore	liij ^s vj ^d
Iſm Williā hancocke	v ^{li} xj ^s
Iſm y ^e wife of Ric ^d Suttard	iiij ^{li} iij ^s iiij ^d
Iſm Edmund Risheton	lvj ^s
Iſm George halsted	xxxxxj ^s xj ^d
Jamys holt	xxv ^s vj ^d
Iſm John ynghm	vj ^{li} xj ^s x ^d
Iſm Richard Benthm̄	xxxxxj ^s iiij ^d
Iſm Richard Borthmā	xxvij ^s j ^d
Iſm Jamys Pollard	lv ^s vij ^d
Iſm John Spens ^r 22	iiij ^{li} vj ^s vj ^d
Iſm Richard Claiton	v ^s

Suma xxxix^{li} xvij^s vj^d.

M^d the bone mallards²³ is iij scores & xvijth.

Iſm y^e bone sheryng is xxxix^{ti} daiez.

Iſm y^e bone mawying is xiij daiez.

thez bonez in monay is xxij^s x^d.

Iſm my mastr^r 24 p'te of y^e Terthez²⁵ is xx^s.

M^d to be paid to y^e Kyng off y^e hole²⁶ xxx^{li}.

Iſm to my mastr^r de claro xj^{li} xij^s iiij^d.

Iſm to be paid to y^e Abbott of Whallay²⁷ ffor y^e terthez xxxj^s iiij^d.

Iſm to y^e said Abbott ffor y^e terthez of the Corne ffield vj^s viij^d.

M^d to be payd to my mastr^r at astre²⁸ ffor ye ferme of ightehill
p'ke xxvij^s iiij^d — iiij^{li} xiiij^s iij^d.

Iſm at myghellmes x^{li} iiij^s — vj^{li} xvij^s j^d.

The ffermez off y^e ffely close.²⁹ anno p'dcō.

Im p'mis.

George Grymshay	vij ^{li}
Iſm Thomas watmough	xxx ^s
Iſm John Spens ^r	xxxij ^s
Iſm Ryc ^d Claiton	xix ^s
Iſm Williā mychell	xix ^s
Iſm Jamys Smyth	xxx ^s

Iſm George Smyth	xxxj ^s
Iſm Williā Tailyer	xxx ^s
Iſm Henry Barcroft	iiij ^d
Suṃa xvj ^{li} xj ^s iiij ^d .	

M^d to ye Kyng x^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d.
 Iſm to Towneley v^{li} xvij^s.

M ^d ye fferme off John Banest ^r 30 ...	vij ^{li} vj ^s viij ^d
Iſm John Kay ³¹	xxxxvj ^s viij ^d
Iſm John Towneley ³²	iiij ^{li}
Suṃa xiiij ^{li} xiiij ^s iiij ^d .	

M^d y^e iiij mylnez.³³

In p^mis. Bŕnley mylne payng yerely to y^e Kyng iiij^{li} vj^s viij^d.
 Iſm y^e ſaid mylne to y^e abbott off Whalley iiij^s.
 Iſm y^e Rev^ocon off y^e ſaid mylne to Townley upon a Covⁿt.
 Iſm Padyhṃ mylne to the Kyng xiiij^s iiij^d.
 Iſm the ſaid mylne to y^e abbott of Whallay xij^d.
 Iſm y^e Rev^ocon of y^e ſaid mylne upon a Covⁿte to Townley.
 Iſm Clivicher mylne to the abbott off Whalley xij^d.
 Iſm the Rev^ocon of y^e ſaid mylne upon a Covⁿte to Townley.
 Iſm Walferden mylne to y^e abbott of Wallay xij^d.
 Iſm y^e Rev^ocon off y^e ſaid mylne upon a Covⁿte.
 Anno p^dcō thez iiij mylnez were to Townley de claro
 xxv^{li} iiij^s vij^d.

M^d meile was ſold this yere ffor xj^d a mette.³⁴

M^d the fferme³⁵ of the Gſe³⁶ was to Townley.

In p ^m is. Xpōfer hei	xxij ^s
Idem. Xpōfer ffor hys bonez	xvj ^d
Idem. Xpōfer ffor hys terthez	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Iſm Henry Pollard ffor his fferme	xij ^s vj ^d
Idem. Henr ^o ffor his bonez	xvj ^d
Idem. Henr ^o ffor his terthez.....	xxij ^d

Iſm Laurence heep ffor kepyng off ye closez and }
 gettyng of hay..... } x^s

Suma liij^s iiij^d.

Iſm to discharge y^e ſōme with in p'mis y^e ſōm ghiste³⁷ vii bests
 xvj^s iiij^d.

Iſm in y^e ovmast³⁸ Gse ffor hay viij^s.

Iſm beyonde y^e water x^d & one bestgate³⁹ in edishe.

Iſm xij bests in wynter to be ffotherd with orts⁴⁰ xvj^s.

Iſm xxx wethers viij^{li}.

Iſm ffor the largher ende of y^e Gse iij^s.

Suma.....(not given.)⁴¹

M^d there is xxxxiij^s iiij^d paid to Townley & x^s to (torn.)

M^d the Remend^r over & beside ys vij^{li} x^s x^d.

The ffermez off Nutshay and Donocshay.

In p'mis y^t Nuthshay was to Towneley xl^s

Iſm ffor bonez xvjd

Iſm ffor Crabtre place xx^s viij^d

Iſm ffor bonez xvjd

Iſm ffor y^e halfe of y^e stone howse xx^s

Iſm ffor bonez xvjd

Suma iiij^{li} iiij^s viij^d

M^d Pillyng waḡs⁴² xvj^s viij^d.

without the teñt which is worth xij^s iiij^d.

M^d to discharge theys ſōme with all.

In p'mis. the brode medow vj^s viij^d — x ffothers of hay.⁴³
 gettyng of their Costs of y^e beste.

Iſm the Croks⁴⁴ v^s.

Iſm the levis⁴⁵ vj^s iiij^d.

Iſm ij ffothers of hay.

Iſm Donocshay medow xij^s iiij^d.

Iſm y^e halfe ghiste off Nutshay iiij^{li} x^s iiij^d.

Iſm y^e wint^r gist to be ffotherd with gresse & hay & vj bests
 xx^s.

Iſm iiij hundreth shepe In Wynt^r iiij^{li}.

and so paid to Townley iiij^{li} iiij^s viij^d.
and the Remeñ ov̄ & besids is v^{li} xix^s viij^d.
Besyde Pyllyng wags qwyche is xxx^s.

M^d the demeyns belongyng to Townley anno p'dcō.

In p'mis the halle lonez ⁴⁶ orcherds and Garthyns	xx ^s
Iřm the olde p'ke ⁴⁷	xx ^s
Iřm y ^e heigh Rode	xij ^s
Iřm the lathe fflat yng with y ^e Croft	xx ^s
Iřm y ^e litle p'ke	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Iřm the Brode yng	xl ^s
Iřm y ^e tynde oke lee	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Iřm y ^e ffysher yng	vj ^s viij ^d
Iřm the chapell lee ⁴⁸	xxvj ^s viij ^d
Iřm the Castell hill ⁴⁹	vj ^s viij ^d
Iřm the Smyth place	xxj ^s iiij ^d
Iřm y ^e hollyn heugh ⁵⁰	xl ^s
Iřm the ov̄ close & y ^e largher	iiij ^{li}
Iřm bulle haūgh Gse	xl ^{liij} s iiij ^d
Iřm the Smalle asylls ⁵¹	x ^s ij ^d
Iřm nutteshay & dunnockshay	iiij ^{li} iiij ^s viij ^d
Suṁa xx ^{li} xvij ^s ij ^d .	
Iřm Brūshay ⁵²	iiij ^{li}
Iřm shore heigh with y ^e merld vrith ⁵³	iiij ^{li}
Iřm the halle heigh	xx ^s
Iřm qwithor ^a place ..	xlj ^s iiij ^d
Iřm qwittacre place	xxiiij ^s iiij ^d
Iřm Teilyer place	x ^s
Iřm y ^e qwite hei	xiiij ^s iiij ^d
Iřm Gresse ffarre Carre	x ^s
Iřm argam Rode ⁵⁴	vj ^s viij ^d
Iřm the wat ^r vrithis	liij ^s iiij ^d
Iřm ij medows	xxxiiij ^s iiij ^d
Iřm Smyth place	xlvj ^s iiij ^d
Iřm y ^e Intacks of y ^e olde p'ke	iiij ^s

Iſm y^e qwithell howse xiijs iiij^d
 Suma xix^{li} xiijs.
 Suma totals xl^{li} xij^s ij^d.

M^d that thys is mast^r chorls⁵⁵ fferme.

In p^mis Henry houghton⁵⁶ iiij^{li} viij^d
 Iſm Jamys walton xv^s
 Alexand^r lee xv^s
 Henry Wilkynson xxxij^s
 Suma vj^{li} ij^s viij^d.

M^d the ghistemets of hapton p[']ke xxvi^{li}.

at Myghelmes & y^e halfe ghist. of y^t mast^r hesketh

Paid vi^{li} xiijs iiij^d.

To the abbott of Whallay ffor herbige x^s.

De Claro to Townley ov^o & besids the paymēts to mast^r
 hesketh⁵⁷ & to y^e said abbott is xvij^{li} xvjs viij^d.

M^d the fferme of yghtynhyll parkes at astur anno p[']dco.
 iiij^{li} xiijs iiij^d.

Iſm the ffelecloss ferme xlix^s.

of the qwych some to be part to mast^r hesket at astur
 vj^{li} xiijs iiij^d.

and so de claro to Townley ix^s xj^d.

M^d the fferme of brunley parch at qwytsunday vj^{li} iij^s j^d ob.

Iſm the fferme of hapton vj^{li} iij^s xj^d.

Iſm mast^r John townley, John bannest^r & John Key fermys
 vj^{li} xvjs viij^d.

Iſm the demane of townley xx^{li} vjs j^d.

M^d Wyllyā bannest^r to be part of thes fermes xlvjs viij^d.

Suma de claro to townley at qwyssunday xxxviij^{li} iij^s j^d ob.

M^d the fferme of yghtynhyll parke at mychelmas v^{li} xvij^s j^d

Iſm the ferme of the ffele close xlix^s

Iſm the gestements of hapton parke.. xxv^{li}

and so mast^r hesket part of thes fermys vj^{li} xiijs^s iiij^d
and to y^e abbot of Walley for herbege x^s

Sum^a de claro to townley at mychelmas xxvj^{li} iij^s ix^d.

M^d the ferme of brunley par^{ch} at martynmas... -vj^{li} v^s j^d ob.

I^ſm the ferme of hapton viij^{li} iiij^s j^d

I^ſm mast^r John townley, John Bannest^r & John }
Kay fermys } vj^{li} xvjs^s viij^d

I^ſm the demane of townley xx^{li} vjs^s j^d

M^d Wylyā bannest^r to be part of thes fermys .. xlvjs^s viij^d

I^ſm to Edmund Assheton & sharcirley (*sic*) ... v^s ij^d

I^ſm to Nycolas shetylworth v^d

I^ſm to the Kyng xxv^s viij^d ob.

Sum^a de claro to townley at martynmas xxxviij^{li} xiijs^s.

Declaro to townley at astur of yghtynhyll }
parke and the ffeleclosse ferme } ix^s xj^d

I^ſm declaro to townley at qwyssunday xxviij^{li} iij^s j^d ob.

I^ſm declaro to townley at mychelmas xxviij^{li} iij^s ix^d

I^ſm declaro to townley at martynmas xxxviij^{li} xiijs^s

S^m^a declaro in the yer^d ys hunderth pound & iiij^{li} x^s ix^d ob.

And the iiij mylns to aco^wte.

M^d thys ys y^e Kyngs ferme to pay to y^e balle⁵⁸.. viij^{li} ijs

I^ſm to y^e graue⁵⁹ xlvjs^s ij^d ob.

M^d to pay thys w^t all of the tyis of brunley iij^{li} ix^s

I^ſm of the Petur money⁶⁰..... xlvjs^s viij^d

I^ſm for vrithys xvjs^s

I^ſm of the freferme of hapton xxxiijs^s iiij^d

I^ſm of the freferme of brunley .. xv^s x^d

I^ſm of y^e scolerod tylth⁶¹..... ix^d

I^ſm my mast^r part ys to pay xxv^s viij^d

NOTES.

¹ "*Mastr Dene*." William, son of John Dene, the head of a family of middle-class gentry resident at Tunworth, near Blackburn and Read Hall, and not at Tanworth in Warwickshire, according to Churton. Master Dene married Maud, daughter of John, and sister of Alexander Nowell, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's. (*Lanc. Vist.*, 1567, p. 36, Cheth. series.) Her mother, Elizabeth Nowell, born Kay, became the wife of Charles, second son of Sir John Towneley, Knt.; and her grandmother was Grace, daughter of Sir Richard, and sister of Sir John Towneley, whose rental is now printed. Master William Dene had three sons — John, William, and Nicholas, of whom some account is given in Churton's *Life of Dean Nowell*, pp. 141, 357; Dr. Grosart's *Spending of the Money of Robert Nowell*, p. 80, Note 7; and Abram's *History of Blackburn*, p. 446.

² "*bone henne*." Boons were small payments reserved in leases, to be paid by the tenants to the landlord, and were rendered in kind as Boon hens, capons, or other poultry; sometimes, in addition to the rent, a day or two of ploughing or mowing was required. See instances in Harland's *Shuttleworth Acc. Books*, pt. ii, p. 457, Chetham series.

³ "*schore*." Afterwards spelled "*schorre*" and "*score*," the latter being the right spelling.

⁴ "*scherryng* and *mawynng*" were sometimes called boon days. Oats being the common grain, and Oatmeal the common food of the country, there would be more *shearing* in Burnley in the sixteenth than in the nineteenth century; but the *mowing* would probably be the same.

⁵ "*p'arch*." It is somewhat remarkable that Burnley, which at this time was merely a chapel of ease under Whalley, having no strictly parochial organization, is here described as a parish.

⁶ "*Wyllā hyrstewod*." Hurstwood is a small hamlet near Towneley and about two miles east of Burnley. The family of the local name does not occur in any of the county genealogies, nor have any of their Wills or Post Mort. Inq. been discovered. In 1560 John Hurstwood was one of the eighteen freeholders in Worsthorpe (adjoining Hurstwood)

whose ancestors held their lands there in the time of Edward I.* Ux. Johannes Hurstwood of Hurstwood was a recipient of Robert Nowell's benefaction in the year 1569 (p. 378), and might be a distant relative of the Nowells. In the same year Alice Spenser of Hurstwood also had a Nowell dole, as well as Robert Wylkynson who occurs here in 1535 as "of Hurstwood," but who received the Nowell benefaction at Padiham, where he lived in 1569 (p. 320).

⁷ "*Laūres halstyd for Roley.*" He was the head of one of the oldest Burnley families still existing, and residing on their ancestral estate. His name occurs in the third generation from the beginning of the recorded Pedigree, and he is entered as living 5 Henry VIII. A Pedigree of the family was entered in the Herald's College in 1833, but it is unfortunately deficient in all the minute requirements of such a record. Laurence Halsted of Rowley Hall paid a chief rent to Sir John Towneley, his superior lord.

⁸ "*Nycolas helay for Hele place.*" In the new edition of Whitaker's *History of Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 177, there is a Pedigree of Whitaker of Healey Hall, near Burnley, but no mention is made of the original family of Healey, and as the Whitakers held the estate in the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1563), and in five generations retained "Nicholas" as a Christian name, it is not improbable that the property was acquired by marriage with a daughter of the individual here named. Healey Hall is now the property of the Towneley family by purchase.

⁹ "*Wyllyā bercrofte,*" whose grandfather died in 1530, 21 Henry VIII, being succeeded by his son Robert, who died soon afterwards, leaving a son William here named, who held the estate in 1532, and dying at Barcroft Hall was buried at Burnley in February 1581. A pedigree of four descents of the family was recorded by Dugdale in 1664-5, but, by the unpardonable carelessness of Sir William Dugdale or his secretary, Thomas Barcroft himself, who entered and signed the pedigree, is entirely omitted, as well as his wives and their son William, and five daughters. The children are entered as the issue of William Barcroft and his wife Susan Rishton, who were their grand parents! The following extracts from the Registers of Burnley Church relate to the baptism and burial of the gentlemen excluded by Dugdale: "Thomas Barcroft sonne of William Barcroft de Barcroft *bap.* y^e viiith

* *History of Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 231.

daye of July 1605." "Thomas Barrcrofte de Barrcrofte bur. September 17, 1668." Dugdale's error is corrected in the new edition of Whitaker's *Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 220.

¹⁰ "*Hapton*." This Manor is situate in Padiham, and descended to the Towneleys from the Norman owners of the local name through the De la Leghs who held it in the time of Edward I. Henry VIII granted a license to Sir John Towneley to enclose and empark the same.

¹¹ "*Ryc^d Byrtwysleye*." He was of Huncote Hall, and the head of an old Hapton family descended from the Huncotes. He succeeded his father, Oliver Birtwisle, in the year 1529-30, and held a large farm in Hapton of the Towneleys. He also held 3 mess. in Huncote of Rich. Rishton and Tho. Grimshaw, Esqs., in soccage by the rent of one penny, valued at v marks. His son probably recorded the pedigree at Glover's *Visitation of Lancashire* in 1567. See also the corrected pedigree in the new edition of Whitaker's *Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 284.

¹² "*Wyllā Rabschay*." William Robertshay and Robertshaw paid Easter dues in Hapton in 1552-3. (*Chetham Misc.*, vol. v, pp. 5, 13.)

¹³ "*Edmund Assheton & Shacirley*." In the new edition of Whitaker's *Whalley* there are abstracts of several deeds relating to the Shuttleworths and De la Leghs of Shuttleworth in Hapton, and also to the descent of the Manor, from which it appears that Lettice and Isabella were the daughters and coheiresses of William Talbot of Shuttleworth Hall in Hapton, and of his wife, Alice, the grand-daughter and heiress of John De la Legh, and Isabella Shuttleworth, who conveyed the Manor to her husband. Lettice Talbot, the elder coheiress, married first, John, eldest son of Edmund Assheton of Chadderton, *jure ux.*, but being left a widow with three sons, she had contracted a second marriage, before 1484, with Nicholas Towneley, uncle of Sir John Towneley, Knt., whose Rent Roll is now printed. Isabella Talbot, the younger coheiress, married, before 1484, Robert Shakerley, Esq., and had a son Thomas, whose contract of marriage with Anne, daughter of Sir Christopher Standish, Knt., deceased, is dated 22 Henry VII, 1506. It is not quite clear how the Manor, which was settled, in 1484, on Lettice, wife of Nicholas Towneley, and afterwards on Isabella, wife of Robert Shakerley, became vested in Edmund Assheton unless it was conveyed by purchase from Robert Shakerley in 1539, nor is there any evidence how it passed from Towneley. Two original deeds in my possession contain statements in con-

nection with the Manor somewhat different from those abstracted and referred to above, and yet both of them seem to have been examined by Christopher Towneley, the antiquary. The first is an Award — “Gyven at Whalley 15 March 4 Edw. IV, 1464—and wytnesses that divers variance and debate has bene moved and hade between William Talbot of Shotylworth and Alice his wife upon that oñ ptye and Nycholl Legh son of Thomas* (*sic*) Legh upon that oy^r ptye, and the p’tyes by medyac’on of frindes are fully condescended & agreed to submyt to frendes and abyde y^e ordinance and award of us James Stansfeld and William Starky chosen by both p’tyes of all manner of acc’ons quarelez varyancez & demandz And taking upon us the offic’ of domesman as requyrd that malyce and hurt may not ensue we dome the sayd p’tyes to be fully accordet and inwardly faythful freynds wythowten frawd or gyle or malyce Nycholas to make a playn relese in fowrme of law & equity of all the landz & teneментz wth ther appurt’s w^{ch} were sometyme of the inh’ance of Issabell that was late the wyffe of John Legh of Shotylworth to the behoof of Alison the wyffe of Will Talbot aforesayd and to the heys of s^d Alison laghfully begotten And Nycoll shall be sworne as solem’ply as s^d Will and Alyce shall require never to disturb ne trowble am ne their intrance ne tenantz att the lagh ne by the lagh and yf thys Award be fownde not suffyciently made ne as trewth and conscience wyll yet it to be redressed after conscience to the intent aforesayd. Sealed by the two arbitrators and gyven at Whalley.”

The other deed is a Transcript of a Fine, levied at Lancaster, on Monday after the Feast of the Assumption of B. M. V., 31 Henry VIII, 1539, before Sir John Porte, Knt., and John Hynde, one of the King’s Justices, &c. “Edmund Assheton, Esq., *Quer.*, and Robert Shakerley, Gen., *Defor.*, concerning 4 messuages, 100 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 20 of turf, 20 of moor, with their app’ts in Hapton, Huncote, Pudyam and Burtwisell — Edmund having had the same of the gift of said Robert the latter quit claims all right therein to the said Edmund and his heirs for ever And the said Robert also acknowledges that a tenement, a mark of silver 4 acres of meadow 20 acres of pasture and 8 acres of wood situate in Hapton which William Berdesay and Ann his wife held for their joint lives *de hereditate* of the said Robert will after the death of the said Ann revert to the said Robert

* John, in the printed abstract.

and his heirs and which tenement and lands the said Robert vests in the said Edmund Assheton and his heirs for ever, to be held of the chief lord of the fee by the services accustomed. Warranty given." (*Lanc. MSS.*)

Edmund Assheton here named died in 1542, 34 Henry VIII, having by his wife, Johane or Jane, daughter and ultimately coheirress of Sir James Haryngton of Wolfage, Knt., a son and successor, James, born in 1494, being of the age of 24 in 1518, at the death of his mother, and aged 48 at his father's death. A quit rent was payable by Sir John Towneley, in 1535, to Edmund Assheton and Robert Shakerley and also to Nicholas Shuttleworth for lands in Hapton. And Edmund Assheton held messuages and lands in Shuttleworth in 1542 (P. M. I.), of Richard Towneley, the elder, by a rent of ix^s and v broad arrow heads. This sum includes the two items in the text, and proves that Assheton, at his death, was the owner of Shakerley's lands. He is said elsewhere to have held lands in Netherhey and Shotelesworth of the King, by reason of the attainder of the Abbot of Whalley.*

¹⁴ "*esse krofte*," i.e., Ash-croft.

¹⁵ "*Nycolas Shetyllworth*" was probably son and heir of Laurence Shuttleworth of Gawthorp, and if so the connection between that house and the parent stock is preserved. Henry, the youngest son of Nicholas Shuttleworth, married a daughter of Sir John Towneley, Knt. See Pedigree of Shuttleworth of Gawthorp† but the match is not recorded in the Towneley Pedigree.‡ In 1583 and 1589 venison was sent from Hapton to Gawthorpe.§

¹⁶ "*de claro*." The clear or net sum after deducting payments.

¹⁷ "*Bradley*." A farm in Hapton, named in the following deed in my possession :

"Nov'int universi p' p'sent^o me Alicia quond' uxore^o Gilb'ti del legh in mea pura viduitate remisisse relax. &c. pro me & hēdib'z meis Imp'p'm quietu' clamasse Johi' del legh filio Joh'is del legh de Medulton heredz et assign. suis totu' ius et clameū que hēo hui' v'l aliquo modo futur' hab're in mea placea t're cu' suis p'tnz que vocat' Bradley que Joh'es Delashutt jam tenet i villa de Hapton Ita q'd nec ego p'dicta Alicie nec hered. mei nec aliquis p' me seu jure meo aliquod jur v'l clameū in p'dicta placea t're cū suis p'tnz de cet'o exig'e v'l vindicare pot'im^o quouis^m in futur^o Et ab omī acciōne juris ac clameū inde fuimus exclusi Imp'p'm

* *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xiv, p. 5.

† Whitaker's *Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 185.

‡ Whitaker's *Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 190.

§ *Shuttleworth Accts.*, pt. i, pp. 19, 53.

—et contra oēs gentes warrantizabimz acquietabimz et *impp'm*, defendem. In cujus, &c. Dat. die lune p'x post fest' Purif' b'e Marie Virginis Anno r. r. Ric'i Sēdi post conquestū Angliæ, septimo. Seal of red wax, device, two figures, motto illegible. Bradley is also named in the *Inq. post Mort.* of Richard Towneley, 16 April 1455, 33 Hen. VI. The last will of Hugh Habergam, of Bradlegh in Hapton, in the county of Lancaster, husbandman, made 5 March 1543—body to be buried in the hige queer in Pedyam—iii^a iv^d for a dirge, and for the Masse of v wowndes of our Lord to be said for my sawle by Syr harre Crauen of Hapton in Whawley Church, one mark—and a stone to be lade ou' faders graue wher fader and moder ly in the quere at Padyam—to the mending of brig ii^a—to my broder Jhon hys chyldre among them iii.-iv^d, and my god chyld to haue a grote more, to be bestowed on a drynkyng at my forth brynging a noble—to my Sonn James, my tak in Hapton from my good Maystr Syr John Towneley, to Thomas Robarte a shepe to hys wyfe my dowter a kyrtle of russete. . . . *

¹⁸ "*Thomas Robart.*" Edmund and Edward Robert occur in Hapton in the Whalley Easter Roll in 1552, (p. 5.) and Thomas Robert of Burnley, in 1569, received Robert Nowell's benefaction, (p. 348.) Probably the man named above in Habergam's Will.

¹⁹ "*The collyn horse.*" Burnley seems to have been noted for its public amusements both before and after the Reformation. The inhabitants discontinued some of them with reluctance, and on the first opportunity revived them, to the great indignation of such zealous Church Reformers as Mr. Edmund Assheton of Chaderton, who had property and authority in the neighbourhood, and whose views on Church questions were totally opposed to Sir John Towneley's. There is an interesting letter on the subject addressed in 1580 by Mr. Assheton to his friend and fellow-magistrate Mr. ffarington of Worden, urging him to use his great influence for the suppression of "the sturres att Brunley about Robyn hooode and the May games," the people having "revyved their former follie and lewde sportes," whilst the Justices did not mean to allow "olde customes."† One of these old customs is named in this Roll, and refers to an ante-Reformation legend which was the subject of a popular pageant or dramatic representation exhibited on the Feast of

* *Lanc. MSS.*, Wills, p. 117.

† *ffarington Papers*, Append., p. 128, Chetham series.

Epiphany.* Warton says that the clergy, finding that the buffoons who attended Merchants at Fairs attracted the notice of the people to a degree not to be suppressed even by the fear of excommunication, instead of profane mummeries presented them with stories from the Bible, which were probably first performed by the Monks,† but parish clerks were afterwards the active agents in these mysteries and moralities;‡ the chief of which, in the north of England, was the Corpus Christi pageant. John Paslew, afterwards the last Abbot, and Christopher Smith, the last Prior, of Whalley, both of them friends and contemporaries of Sir John Towneley, became brethren of the York Corpus Christi Guild on the same day in 1492, and several other Lancashire clerks and laymen were enrolled at various times amongst that distinguished body.§

In the churchwardens' accounts of S. Laurence, Reading, Anno 1499, is this entry: "Payed for hors mate for the horsys of the Kings of Colen (Cologne) on May-day, vi^d."|| In Nares' *Glossary* there is an account of the Three Kings of Colen, Collen, or Coloyne.¶ When King Charles the Second was a fugitive hiding in Mr. Whitgreaves' house, Moseley Court, a messenger came with the cheering news that three Kings had espoused his cause, and were coming to his assistance. "I know not what three Kings they can be," said "the merrie Monarch," "unless they be *the Three Kings of Cologne!*"** The origin of the payment by Sir John Towneley, here recorded, has not been discovered.

²⁰ "*Ightenhill p'ke.*"—This estate was settled by Sir John Towneley for the use of his son and heir-apparent Richard, whose son Sir Richard, by will dated 26 July, 1553, having no surviving issue male, devised to his cousin John Towneley, son and heir of Charles Towneley, deceased, "a close called Ightenhull P'ke (comprising 690 acres), with the mills of Brunley, Paydham, and Clethero, and the parke aforesaid and Myll which I have by leace of o' Sovreigne lorde the Kynge, and all the Tythes I have in the sayd County of Lancaster and yf I dye without heyres male of my bodye laghfully begotten also several taks & leases of lands

* Archbishop Trenchon in *The Star of the Wise Men*. S. Math. ii, 1. 1850.

† *Hist. of Poetry*, vol. i, p. 240; vol. ii, pp. 367-374.

‡ Hawkins' *Hist. Music*, vol. iii, p. 527.

§ *Hist. Corpus Christi Guild*, p. 132. Surtees Soc.

|| Coates' *Hist. of Reading*, p. 214.

¶ Nares' *Glossary*, p. 96, 4to, 1822.

** Macaulay's *Hist. of England*.

and Tithes w^{ch} I have from Sir Richard Sherburne and Sir John Nevill Knights, and Thomas hesketh, and Robert Dalton, esquyers.”*

²¹ *Vicar of Rachedale.* Sir Gilbert Haydock, clerk, vicar of Rochdale, was the second son of Simon Haydock of Hesandford, in Burnley, who acquired the estate of Hesandford by marriage with the heiress of the old feudal family of Stansfield, in the latter part of the fifteenth century.† Evan Haydock, the eldest brother of Sir Gilbert, married Ellen, daughter of Sir John Towneley, Knt., from whom he was divorced, and in the 5 Edw. VI. she prosecuted, in the Duchy Court, Simon Haydock and Gilbert Haydock, clerk, trustees, for lands and hereditaments settled upon her on her marriage.‡ On the 15th July, 1531, Sir John Towneley appointed him being then described as “capellanus,” along with William Langley, clerk, and three influential laymen ffeoffees of his estates.§ Haydock had probably been Sir John’s Chaplain at Ightenhill or Hapton, where he had domestic chapels, and Sir Gilbert, as appears from this rental, had obtained a lease of lands in the former place worth iii^d a year. In the preceding year he occurs as vicar of Rochdale, and in 1534 as Rural Dean of Blackburn, to which office he was appointed by Rowland Lee, LL.D., Bishop of Lichfield. The office in that year was worth in proof of Wills and casual farm leases 20s. per annum, and a pension of 8*l.* annually by composition out of the Deanery of Blackburnshire was paid to Gilbert Haydock, clerk, Vicar of Rochdale, by the Abbey of Whalley. *Liber. Regis.* The Dean was empowered to watch over the clergy of his deanery, but we may hope that nothing was said in his commission about celibacy or concubinage. As he had *grandchildren* in 1553, and does not name his wife, it may be inferred that he afterwards correctly describes his unhappy offspring in his will. Edward the Sixth repealed the laws and canons which required the clergy to live in celibacy, although some of the clergy had evidently previously disregarded them and married. Southey observes that “nothing in the course of the Reformation gave so much offence to the Papists, and there is no topic to which Sir Thomas More in his controversial writings reverts so frequently, or treats with so much asperity,”|| as the marriage of the

* *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xiv, p. 95.

† *Hist. of Whalley*, vol. ii, p. 176.

‡ *Ibid*; and Introduction, ante.

§ *Lanc. Inquis.*, vol. iii, p. 357.

|| *Book of the Church*, C. xiii, p. 301.

clergy. In 1533 Thomas Hawker was his "conduct" or curate at Rochdale. Feb. 5, 1537, John Hopwood of Hopwood, Esq., and Gilbert Haydock, vicar of Rochdale, witnessed an award made by Sir Richard Assheton of Middleton, Knt., Steward to the Earl of Sussex, of lands in dispute between Thomas Chetham and Edmund Chaderton of Nuthurst, Gent. In 1547, he answered Bishop Bird's visitation "call." On the 13 Feb., 29 Hen. VIII, James Schofield of Schofield, gent., and Thomas Chadwick of Healey, gent., are bound to Thomas Chetham of Nuthurst, gent., to abide the award of Edmund Hopwood of Hopwood, Esq., and Mr. Gilbert Haydock, clerk, vicar of Rochdale, for all mannèr of variances between them.* On the 12th Oct., 1552, the King's Commissioners, Trafford, Holcroft, and Holt, Knights, delivered to Gilbert Haydock, priest, vicar of the Parish Church of Rachdale, and to the churchwardens there (and to four priests of the chapels within the parish), two Copes, seven vestments, three altars furnished with all manner of altar cloths, two candlesticks of brass, one censer, one cross brass, parcel gilt, a pair of organs, three chalices, five great bells, and two hand bells, all belonging to the Parish Church of Rachdale. He signed his name, in a small running hand, "gylbert haydocke vicar," and on his seal is engraved the letter H.† His will is dated February 15, 1553-4, and he describes himself as Vicar of Rachdale, and desires to be buried in the church there. His debts paid—he proceeds: "I wyll and bequeth y^e resydu of all my goodes unto thos pore chyldren here nowe dwellinge in my howse vnto whom I am Father and Graundfather to be devyded amongst them. And of this my p'sente test'ment I make & ordeyne Johne my bastarde dowter and Ann the dowter of Rycharde Haydock my bastarde Son my execut^r." In the inventory, amongst debts owing by the testator, "ii^{li} to henry Coltehurst of maryage money, unpaid of xx^{li}." Proved at Chester.‡

²² "*John Spenser*." Laurence Spenser, deceased, held a mess. and tenement in Ightenhill Park before 1593.§ For this family see *Lanc. MSS.*

²³ "*bone mallards*." Where this number of 78 wild ducks, or rather drakes, would be found in the neighbourhood of Burnley now is a

* *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxxvi, p. 26, "Vicars of Rochdale."

† *Lanc. Church Goods, tpe. Edw. VI.*, Mr. J. E. Bailey, F.S.A.

‡ *Lanc. Wills*, vol. xxvii, p. 87.

§ *Shuttleworth Acct.*, vol. iv, p. 982, note.

question not easily answered. The *swamps* and marsh lands of the sixteenth century no longer exist there. Capons, fowls and mallards, would supply the tables on the great festivals of the Church, and friends and relatives would be regaled with beverage the produce of the house, farm and cellar, after the fashion of a respectable antiquity, rather than with the wine of some foreign vintage.

²⁴ "*my mast'r.*" Sir John Towneley.

²⁵ "*Terthez.*" Probably the predial tithes, arising from the fruits of the earth, of which Sir John paid xx^s and his respective tenants their shares to the rector.

²⁶ "*hole,*" whole.

²⁷ "*Abbott of Whalley.*" John Paslew, B.D., Abbot from 1507 to the 12th March, 1536-7, when he was executed, after a trial at Lancaster, on a charge of treason.* Sir John Towneley's name occurs amongst the tenants at will in the *Survey of the Abbey Lands* made for the King, 28 Hen. VIII., 1537. He held a house, a garden, and four acres of arable land and one of meadow in Burnley, of the Abbot and Convent. The rent, being unknown, is omitted.† It is here said to be due as tithe, which item is not included in the Royal Survey.

²⁸ "*astre,*" the Feast of Easter.

²⁹ "*ffely close.*" Elis Nutter dyd passe his good will of a certeyn close called filliclose unto Sr John Townley Knyght for xxvi^s & viii^d duringe his life. Dated 22 Henry VIII. :‡ and Sir Richard Towneley of Towneley, Knt., by will, dated 26th July, 1553, says : "I give a certain close called Filley close to Henry Towneley Son and heir of Laurence Towneley Esq. deceased, Bernard Towneley Son and heir of John Towneley Esq. deceased, Thomas Towneley, and John Aspeden, Prest, who shall stand seized and enfeofed of the said Lands called Filley Close, to the heirs male of my body lawfully begotten in tail male ; but if it please God that I die without heirs male then to stand seized of the said lands to the use of John Towneley, Son of Charles Towneley and his heirs male for ever." §

* Whitaker's *Whalley*, vol. i, p. 109.

† *Coucher Book*, vol. iv, p. 1221.

‡ *Towneley Evid.*, fol. 99 and 114.

§ *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xiv, p. 95.

³⁰ "*John Banestre*," and William Banest' afterwards named, were probably sons of Nicholas Banastre of Altham, by his wife Margaret, daughter of Sir John Towneley, Knt. Both held their farms under their grandfather. John Banastre died 29 Hen. VIII, and was a substantial tenant, as he stocked his farm and paid an annual rent of 7*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* John Banastre, Gent., probably a relative, on Sunday next after the Feast of S. Thomas the Martyr A° 1514 deposed before Christopher Smith, the Prior, in Whalley Church in a case of Divorce between John Bulcok and Agnes niece of Sir John Hoghton [of Pendleton?], that he married the Mother of the said Agnes and knew the parties—Bulcok for 40 years—that motion was made for the marriage of Bulcok and Agnes, by Laurence Towneley Esq (of Barnside) and Henry his Son in the garden of Nycholas Wilson of Colne on Monday next after Dominica in albis, last, and she consented but told the women she did it through fear of her friends, some of whom were monstrously cruel and unjust towards her, and to save her Lands. Mayster Towneley said roughly to her, "Thou art noght and a beggarlye wolt'. thou be & yf thou forsakest thys rych man tak me never for thy frend but gett thee fast from me & out of my howse for I wyll be as moch thy foe as I have bene thy frende" & all the nyght he tried to persuade her, and she came & sayd to Katherine Baxter "Alas! Katryne I am undone for my frends woll make & compel me to have John Bulcok and by my trouth I had lever dy then have hym for I never loved hym ne never wyll do & so I pray yo bere me record hereafter for I woll never tarry wyth hym when I am weddyt." She mutilated her breast that she might not consent to cohabit with him. Bulcok was an old man and Agnes about 20. The Towneleys were the instigators, and gained their point. Various witnesses corroborated the unhappy girl's sad statements, but the marriage, strange to say, was afterwards declared valid by the Court of York, 31 July 1514, and a Divorce, for which the young wife and her friends petitioned, was not granted.*

³¹ "*John Kay*," a near relation of Elizabeth, wife of Charles Towneley, second son of Sir John. See *Derby Household Books*, pp. 198–9, notes. Cheth. series.

³² "*John Towneley*," named in the will of Sir John Towneley as his natural or illegitimate brother, both bearing the same Christian name. His base son Bernard was ancestor of Towneley of Hurstwood.

* *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, pp. 490–1.

³³ "*iiij mylnez.*" These four mills, viz., Burnley Mill, Padiham Water Mill, Clivacher Mill, and Walforden Mill, all occur in the *Towneley Evidences*, pp. 94, 143, 145. The small rents due from these four corn mills to the Abbots of Whalley are omitted in the Royal Survey of the Abbey possessions taken in the year 1537.*

³⁴ "*a mette,*" a strike, or bushel of oatmeal. "Four mettes and a peke of whette" were sold at Preston in February 1591-2 for xv^s ix^d.†

³⁵ "*the fferme,*" i.e., the rent.

³⁶ "*the G^{se},*" "le Geez alias Gez close".‡ "Item, a close of pasture called the jez, containing by estimation xvii acres."§ "Padiham Guies" was the name of a field in which William Haydock, a Monk of Whalley, was hanged on the 13th March, 1536-7, the day after the execution of his Abbot.|| Dr. Whitaker thought that the word "gues could only mean green,"¶ but might it not signify the goose field or close?

³⁷ "*som' ghiste,*" the summer agistment, after grass or eddish, for cattle, the winter agistment being for sheep.

³⁸ "*ov'mast,*" uppermost.

³⁹ "*bestgate in edishe,*" the food for one beast, or ox, after the mowing. Sometimes called the winter pasturage.

⁴⁰ "*orts,*" oats.

⁴¹ "*Suma.*" It would be x^{li} iiii^s ii^d
Deduct payments ii^{li} xiii^s iv^d

vii^{li} x^s x^d as stated.

⁴² "*wags,*" wages.

⁴³ "*ten fothers of hay.*" Fodder, a horse load, about 19 cwt. each.—*Halliwell.*

⁴⁴ "*the croks,*" timber staves or crooks on which hay was carried to the barn in places where the roads rendered wains or carts inaccessible.

⁴⁵ "*leyis,*" local taxes, or *lays* levied upon the lands for local purposes.

⁴⁶ "*lonez,*" lanes.

⁴⁷ "*the old p'ke,*" and "*ye little p'ke*" may simply signify enclosures,

* *Vide Coucher Book.*

† *Shuttleworth Accounts*, pt. i, p. 71, Chetham series.

‡ *Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey*, vol. iv, p. 1176.

§ *Ibid.*, p. 1184.

|| *Hist. Whalley*, vol. i, p. 109.

¶ *Ibid.*, p. 109, note.

although the license for lands being emparked at Towneley is dated 6 Hen. VII. No deer are named in this rental, nor was a park mentioned in the two great surveys of the demesne in 1603 and 1612.

⁴⁸ "*the chapel lee*," land which at one time had obviously been connected with some religious foundation. The domestic chapel within the hall might have a small recognised endowment. On the 10th January 1454 a Licence was granted to John Towneley of Towneley Gent. to have a suitable Oratory within his dwelling house at Towneley, Clevacher and Bretwesley, and Masses and other divine services celebrated by fit Chaplains, in his presence and in the presence of his family and servants during the pleasure of the Bishop of Lichfield.* The Chapel at Hapton had also a licensed Chaplain as on the 5th November 1497 John Yngham was ordained at Lichfield "ad titul. mon. de Whalley sub deacon secular,"† and on the 5 June 1501 James Yngham was ordained on a similar title "ad stipend. Joh'is Townley."‡ In a List of the Clergy of the Deanery of Blackburn, without date, but before the Reformation, occurs the name of "Dom. Rob'tus Yngham ex p'visione Joh'is Towneley," and opposite his name is written "nō hēt stipend,"§ but why it was unpaid is not stated. He was at Burnley. Henry Craven Capell, living in 1524 in Whalley, had probably been Chaplain to Sir John Towneley at Hapton, as he was living there in 1543, but the evidence is not quite conclusive.|| There is little doubt that he is the Priest named as being "suspected of Religion," in the following Letter of the Bishop of Chester, and had most likely been harshly treated by some persons whose creed at least condemned their inhumanity. Craven was a very common name at Whalley, and amongst the tenants who held Abbey Lands in and before 1537, occur the names of seven men called Craven,¶ and in 1552 some of them paid the Easter Dues in Whalley.**

Bishop Chaderton and others —

"To our louinge frendes S^r Richard Sherburne Knight, Richard Assheton Esquier, and Edward Braddell gent., and to eu'ry of yo^r."††

"After our very hearty commendacons—Where we are certainly and

* *Reg. Close*, p. 72, *Lanc. MSS.*

† *Lanc. MSS., Lichf. Papers.*

‡ *Ibid.*

§ *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 256.

|| *Ibid.*, and see p. 16, *ante*.

¶ *Coucher Book*, vol. iv, appendix.

** *Chetham Miscell.*, vol. v.

†† *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 326.

for a very truthe enformed that one henrie Craven, a Priest in his lyfe tyme suspected of Religion was buried of late in y^e Chauncell of the p'ish church of Whawley in the night season soe verie secretlie and priville that dyvers murmur att it and verily thinke that Masse and Dirige or other Popish Service was sayd at his Buriale to the reproche of the ecclesiasticall officers as not having due regarde to that parte of the Diocesse whych is the worst thought of by Reason of soche matters and hath purchased some sclaunders We therefore have thought well for the tryall of the trueth in this behalf to requier yoⁿ and nev' thelesse to giue yo^r auctoratie to call before yoⁿ or any two of yoⁿ at such place and tyme as shall to yoⁿ or any two of yoⁿ be thought meete, the Viccar of the saide Church and also the p'ish Clerke of the same and the Churchwardens and all and ev'ry other such p'sons as uppon due examina'con shalbe thought to be doers in the matter or privie or knowinge of the same and to take their sev'all answeres in writinge upon their othes to the Articles and Interrogatories enclosed and the same Answers and what yoⁿ further can learne touching the contents of the said matter to certify unto us or other o^r associats at Chester betwixt this and the xxth daie of Maii nexte cominge under yo^r hands and sealles as wee trust yoⁿ. And thus wee bid yoⁿ hartily farewell, at Chester the iiith day of this instant December 1573.

Your louenge frendes

Will. Cestreñ.

Rob^t Leche.

Willm Gerrard."

The substance of the reply follows :

"*S^r George Dobson*, Vic^r deposed that S^r Henry Craven was born and died in the Parish of Whalley but knew not whether any Priest visited him or who buried him. The Parish Clerk had one key of the Church and the Vicar the other.

"*Ralph Cullen*, the Parish Clerk, aged 56, said that Sir Henry 'deed' at his mother's house and that no bells were tolled for him nor Priest sent for to his knowledge. He heard say that Sir Henry was brought in the night, after he was dead, to the Church steele on a man's back in a Sack and from thence carried on a man's back into the Church ("as the manner of our country is")* The man's name was Mollyngton

* *Romeo and Juliet*, act iv, sc. 1, l. 109.

and two others were with him, one Edmond Lord and one — Nowell. The Clerk was privy to his burial and in the absence of the Vicar buried him himself upon Monday in the Whitson week at xi of the clock at night.

"*George Shuttleworth** Uncle of the said S^r Henry, aged 64, heard that the body was carried in a Sack on Horseback and buried.

"*Agnes Craven*, widow, mother of the said Sir Henry, aged 74. He came to her house about ten days before his death from the house of one Edmond Lord and she deposed that no Bells were tolled nor yet a 'Minister' sent for, or called to minister unto him the 'Communion' nor any other, to her knowledge."

It may be inferred from this hideous description of wild fanaticism and bigotry that the poor Priest had been supposed to recant, and that his sincerity had been suspected. He was of an influential family in Whalley, a native of the village, lately connected with the Abbey, taught and trained in its school, and well thought of by the Abbot and Convent, who had doubtless obtained holy orders for him, and probably presented his relative, Mr. Thomas Craven, to the vicarage of Eccles a little before the dissolution. He had seen the gorgeous Abbey in its pride and beauty, and had witnessed its fall and desolation. What a death bed was his! How little comfort! how little sympathy, except from his aged and widowed mother, and how cold and hopeless the last sad rites performed by the Parish Clerk! Who could wonder that Whalley parish should be "the worst thought of" of any place in the diocese?

⁴⁹ "*castell hill*," supposed to be the site of the earliest house of the family, but it is not now to be distinguished by any remains. Whitaker says it was situated southward from the present mansion, on a tall and shapely knoll still denominated the Castle Hill, and immediately adjoining to the farm called Old House.

⁵⁰ "*hollyn heugh*." This was a portion of the commons wrongfully enclosed by Sir John Towneley, 6 Hen. VII. to the injury of the copyholders, who doomed the spirit of the oppressor to wander in restless misery, calling upon his successors to throw open or disappropriate the lands in these words:

**Lay out, lay out
Morelaw and Hollinhey Clough.**

* Living at Whalley 6 Edw. VI. and he and the wife of Richard Craven each paid ii^s vi^d being the two largest Easter offerings in Whalley in that year, which indicates their good social position.—*Cheth. Miscell.*, vol. v, pp. 1-2.

These enclosures were afterwards claimed and seized by the Crown in right of the Duchy of Lancaster, and in 1603 were leased to the Earl of Devon. In 1612, Horelaw, being 292 acres, was purchased from the Crown by Richard Towneley, Esq., and was worth at that time little more than 2s. per acre. The rights of the old feudal copyholders seem still to have been ignored, and yet the ghost of Sir John was appeased, although the tradition of the "Towneley ghost" was current in 1818, and may be still.

⁵¹ "*small asylls*," hasels.

⁵² "*Br'nshay*." Brunshaw, in a Parliamentary survey in 1612, consisted of 118 acres, 7 yards to the perch.

⁵³ "*merld vrith*." Marled earth was early and long used as a manure by good husbandmen, owing to its rich limy nature.

⁵⁴ "*argam rode*." The word occurs as the *organroode* in the *Towneley Evid.*, fol. 87. Organ, orgeys, or ling, was the name of a fish. The *Fisher Ing* occurs before, p. 7.

⁵⁵ "*Master Charles*" Towneley, second son of Sir John, ob. v. p., having married by disp., dated 20th Dec. 1527, Elizabeth, daughter of — Kay of Rochdale, and widow of John Nowell of Read, Esq., and had issue a son and heir, John, of Gray's Inn, who married Mary, the great granddaughter of Sir John, and perpetuated the line.

⁵⁶ "*Henry houghton*," the third son of John Houghton of Pendleton, by his wife Katherine, daughter of Ralph Catterall of Little Mitton, Esq., and widow of Henry Shuttleworth of Hacking, was closely connected by family ties with Sir John Towneley. Sir John's second wife (Catterall) was Henry Houghton's aunt. His nephew, William Houghton, married Margaret, Sir John's natural daughter; and his cousin Ellen, daughter of George Houghton, married Thomas Towneley, Sir John's natural son, from whom she was divorced.*

⁵⁷ "*Mas'r hesketh*." Grace, daughter of Sir Richard and Dame Joan, and sister of Sir John Towneley, was the second wife of Thomas Hesketh of Rufford, but had no issue. Their marriage covenant is dated 25 Aug. 1492, and Johanne relict of Sir Richard Towneley Kt., Richard Langton, Richard Sherburne and John Talbot, Knts., are bound to Thomas Hesketh, Esq., in 10*l.*, and if it happe that Grace, dau. of the said Joane decease afore the Feast of the Nativity without issue to said

* See *Lanc. Visitations*, Chetham series.

Thomas, then the obligation to be void.* He died 14th Aug. 1523. His son and heir, Sir Robert Hesketh, married Grace, daughter of Sir John Towneley. He died 8th Feb. 1539-40, and she 2nd May 1543, leaving two sons, Thomas and Robert.†

⁵⁸ "*balle*," bailiff. The rent was due to the King in right of the Duchy of Lancaster.

⁵⁹ "*the graue*," the wood bailiff.

⁶⁰ "*the Peter Money*." Peter-pence was paid before the Reformation on the Feast of St. Peter (29th June) by all families possessed of thirty pence of yearly rent in land, out of which they paid a penny to the Pope, who claimed it as a tribute from England. This payment was suppressed by Henry VIII. Sir John Towneley rendered loyal allegiance to Rome, and was one of the Pope's faithful sons.

⁶¹ "*ye scolerod tylth*." The latter is an old word used by farmers, and signifying tillage or tilling. It is a common saying in the East Riding of Yorkshire, "The land is in fine tilth," or cultivation, or, when it is poor, "There is no tilth in it." Shakspeare (Cambr. ed.) uses the word :

— Contract, Succession,

Bourn, bound of land, *tilth*, vineyard, none.

Tempest, act ii, sc. 1, lines 151-2.

Even so her plenteous womb

Expresseth his full *tilth* and husbandry.

Measure for Measure, act i, sc. 4, lines 43-4.

Tennyson has adopted the word, and, although found in most dictionaries, its meaning has puzzled some of his readers.‡

"The School-rood" might be connected with the Chantry-house belonging to Towneley, on the west side of Burnley Church-yard, and afterwards used as a Grammar School.§

* *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxxvii, p. 15.

† *Ibid.*, vol. xiii, Hesketh Ped.

‡ *Notes and Queries*, 5 S, viii, pp. 68, 197, 379.

§ Gastrell's *Not. Cestr.*, vol. ii, pt. ii, p. 315, note 14.

CORRIGENDA ET ADDENDA.

Page v, Introduction, note 6, *for* "1491" *read* "1471."

„ vii, „ note 12, *for* "Ecclesiæ" *read* "Ecclesiâ."

„ xxiii, „ note 30, *add* "Her last Will is dated October 1, 1551, wherein she describes herself as 'Dame Anne wyfe of S^r William Radclyffe of Ordsall Knyght and late wyfe of S^r John Townley of Townley Knyght'; she desires to be buried within the Collegiate Church of Manchester, and bequeaths 'all that she had from her late husband, to her now husband,' and appoints him her executor. Proved at Chester, September 6, 1565. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxvii, p. 425.)"

„ 21, Notes, note 32, He is named in Sir John's Will, but only as his "brother." The inference is that he was illegitimate.

„ 25, „ note 50, *for* "6 Hen. VII." *read* "Hen. VIII."

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ERRATA.

Page xxiv, line 9, *for* Dunkenhalgh *read* Pontalgh.

„ line 17, *for* „ *read* „

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Page xxix, note, *dele* the last two lines.

THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF
Mr. Langley of Prestwich,
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES
BY
THE REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A.,
HON. CANON OF MANCHESTER AND VICAR OF MILNROW.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
M.DCCC.LXXVIII.

INTRODUCTION.

THE writer of the following imperfectly executed autobiographical sketch has not been fully identified, and the sketch itself is too fragmentary to supply precise information regarding his family. Neither his own nor his father's Christian name is recorded, and even his admission to Brasenose College has escaped the notice of Colonel J. L. Chester, who most obligingly consulted the records. He was the son of a clergyman, and was born at Prestwich, but the baptismal registers do not commence there until the year 1603, so that they do not afford the desired information. It is probable that he was William, son of Mr. Thomas Langley, who matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, Nov. 19, 1579.¹ Thomas Langley is somewhat inaccurately described by the bursar or other college official as the son of a Lancashire plebeian (*plebis filius*), and of the age of 15, his father not being regarded as a gentleman, because he did not possess a landed estate, although a scion of an ancient house. There is little doubt that the "plebs" was, at least, the grandson of an "armiger." "Thomas Langley, clerk," clearly belonging to the Agecroft family, occurs as a witness to a lease of land from James Assheton of Chaderton, Esq., to Reynold Tetlow and Nicholas Whytehead, situate at Coleshaw (Cowlshaw) in Oldham, on the 2nd

¹ Dodsworth, vol. xiv, p. 223.

May 1594, and the same lease is attested by "Laurence Langley."² A Laurence Langley, "generosi filius," matriculated at Brasenose College, April 19, 1588, being aged 18 years,³ and may be the same individual associated in this deed with kinsmen.⁴

Mr. William Langley, clerk, married Katherine, daughter of James Assheton of Chaderton, Esq., and is named in the original manuscript pedigree of the family (*penes me*), as well as in Dugdale's *Visitation of Lancashire*, as being rector of Cheadle, in the county of Stafford. As this autobiographical fragment, together with some manuscript sermons in the same hand-writing, was found in the muniment room formerly belonging to the Asshetons of Chaderton, where it had remained undisturbed for a century and a half by their successors the Hortons, it may be reasonably inferred that the son-in-law of Mr. James Assheton was the writer of the following sketch of his own life, and that the subsequent parts, if written, have been lost.

² *Lanc. MSS.*, Original Deeds.

³ Dodsworth, vol. xiv, p. 223.

⁴ On the 8th May 2 Eliz., John Byron of the county of Notts, Esq., leased to Katherine, widow of Laurence Langley of Manchester, Gent., deceased, and to Robert Langley, Gent., their son, a close called Walker's Croft, &c., in Manchester, and all the Free Fishing in the River Irk from Ashley Lane to the Water of Irwell, together with the Queen's Grindlestones and Lime Pits within the precincts of the premises, for the life of the said Byron, as the same were granted to him by lease dated 20 Sep., 4 Edw. VI., by the ffeoffees of Manchester Grammar School; yearly rent 47*l.* 10*s.* *Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxiv, p. 46; *Chetham Miscell.*, vol. v, notes, p. 20.

If the writer be the William Langley named, he would not be a young man at the time of his marriage. James Assheton succeeded his uncle (who had married a coheiress of Sir Robert Langley of Agecroft) in 1613, being then "of the age of eleven years and ten months," and marrying about the year 1620, he had issue a son and a daughter living in the year 1623; and the daughter Katherine, who married Langley, the rector of Cheadle, was not then born. If he graduated at Oxford about the year 1617 (Notes, p. 20, *post*), it is clear that some of the incidents recorded in the fragment as having occurred during his visits from Oxford to Manchester happened long after his undergraduate days. Mr. Mynshull, the apothecary, who attended him in one of his attacks of sickness, did not settle in Manchester until about the year 1635 (Notes, p. 22, *post*), he being at that time a young and rising medical practitioner, and Mr. Langley having reached his thirty-ninth year.

There is nothing to shew what length of time is embraced in the narrative fragment, but it was probably written at a late period of the autobiographer's life, and the order of sequence of the recorded passages, observations, and reflections, may not be very exact. It will be noticed, that he more than once left Oxford on account of his health, and that he afterwards returned, so that it is possible he may have been engaged as a college tutor, or had some official connection with the university after taking his degrees, although he has not fallen under the notice of Anthony-à-Wood.

The Langleys of Agecroft in Pendlebury, descended from the Langleys of Langley in the parish of Middleton, deduced their descent from, and inherited, intermediately, the estate of the feudal house of Prestwich, who were the founders of the church of that large parish. Adam de Prestwich, and Thomas his son and heir, exercised their right of patronage (see *Catal. of Rectors, post.*) in and after the year 1316. During eighteen years Richard de Radclyffe of Ordsall probably usurped the patronage which led to litigation, and the king having vindicated and recovered the Langley's title, it remained undisputed in their family for upwards of three centuries. The living, being well endowed, was held by a succession of Langleys, generation after generation, until we find it in the possession of the "cosen" or kinsman of the writer of the following narrative. He was the last of the Elizabethan rectors,⁵ and seems to have always resided on his benefice, and to have been a gentleman zealous and influential, assiduously maintaining the veritable faith, feeding his flock, and promoting concord in his parish. On one occasion, having made an incautious statement in his pulpit, his high social position and family connections led to his being accused in high quarters, and he had the manliness to openly confess his error. He read a disagreeably elaborate recantation in his own church, and proved himself to be neither contumacious towards his diocesan, nor disloyal to the ruling powers; and, although stigmatized as a Puritan and as

⁵ See *Chetham Miscell.*, vol. v, notes, pp. 19-26.

disaffected to legitimate authority, he wished to be regarded as "a sober, peaceable, and conscientious son of the Church of England."

His friend and kinsman, Bishop Chaderton,⁶ had his consistory, and often summoned before him men who "thought it a great matter of conscience to depart from a piece of the least of their ceremonies, they were so addicted to their old customs; and again, on the other side, he found some to be so new fangled that they would innovate all things, and so despise the old, that nothing could like them but that is new," and he therefore, like the Church of which he was an active Minister, "thought it expedient not so much to study how to please and satisfy either of these parties, as how to please God, and profit them both." The Bishop knew the character and zeal of the rector of Prestwich, and approved of both, and he knew his own failings too well either to assume or to claim any title to infallibility.

The Langleys were intimately connected with the Asshetons of Chaderton, who, in the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth had obtained the advowson of Prestwich by marriage. The Asshetons were descended, and held their lands, from Norman ancestors. This branch had been seated at Chaderton upwards of a century at this time, and had always been loyal to the crown and adherents to the church, warmly attached to the reformation and zealous sympathizers with Brad-

⁶ *Chetham Miscell.*, vol. v, notes, p. 20.

ford the martyr and other leaders of the popular movement. They were friends of the incumbents of Oldham from the earliest period of their residence in that part of Prestwich parish.⁷ In Oldham church they had a family

⁷ The following are abstracts of Chaderton deeds, in which the Langleys and Asshetons are named in connection with Prestwich-cum-Oldham.

5 Hen. IV.—John de Chaderton and Henry Langley Clerk attest in Oldham.

12 Hen. IV. A^o 1411.—Robert de Longley leases lands at Birchaw, Scolecroft and Tatescroft, in Chadderton, to John le Wyld, and to Thomas le Wyld his brother Capell. de Oldham. Dower of Margaret, mother of said Robert, reserved.

30 Hen. VI.—M. Ralfe Langley, Parson of Prestwich, leases tithes of Oldham to S^r Laurence Assheton, Priest.

25 Sep. 23 Henry VII.—John, son and heir of Richard Chaderton, leases lands at Coleshaw in Chaderton to Nicol Whythead and Margery his wife for 21 years. Witness, John Langley, Clerk.

1 May, 1515.—Thomas Longley, Parson of Prestwich, leases tithes in Crompton to Hugh Burdman, lector in capella de Shaw.

24 March 8 Hen. VIII.—Nicholas Cowper, Capell. de Owldam, has a grant of a croft in Oldham from William Langley Pson of Prestwyche. He occurs 4 June 21 Hen. VIII. as Nicholas Cowpe, Capell. along with Rob. Langley Jun^r Esq. Edmund Langley Gent, and Edm. Asheton Esq.

14 Aug. 32 Hen. VIII.—Sir Thomas Shorrocks, Priest, of Oldham, has a lease from Edmund Assheton of Chaderton for 12 years, of three closes in the field of Oldham in his possession, paying yearly a pepper corn rent, but should the lands be exchanged with John Tetlaw of Ryeley for other lands Sir Thomas Shorrocks to have a proportionate part of the viii^l. he has paid, returned.

25 Dec. 1549.—Dom. Roger Wrygley, Curate of Prestwyche, and Laurence Hall, Reader of Shaw, received “a benefactyon” from William Langley Parson of Prestwich and Edmund Assheton of Chaderton esq by the hand of James Hopwood servant to M. Assheton.

chapel, the place of their burial, and took an active interest in all that concerned the well being of the parish; nor is it improbable that Mr. Thomas Langley, the autobiographer's presumed father, had been the minister either of Oldham or Shaw, as the rector of Prestwich supplied the spiritual wants of both these ancient chapels. There is abundant evidence that these Elizabethan Asshetons were a strongly religious, home-loving, and home-keeping people, probably not much disposed to field sports, to hunting and hawking, to bowls, shuffle-board or music—to judge from the inventories of their goods—but always popular with their ancient tenantry, and on good terms with the neighbouring gentry.

13 Oct. 3 & 4 Phil. et Mar.—At a division of Tonge Moor present Sr Robert Langley Knt. John Tonge of Tonge Gen, Edward Standish, Mary Standish, Widow, late wife of Edw. Standish, dec^d, Edmund Assheton Esq. and Ralfe his brother, William Longley Rector of Prestwich, Thomas Sherok, curate of Oldham, and others.

24 Nov. 1592.—last Will of Edmund Langley of Oldham Co. Lanc. (Parish?) Clerk.—to be buried in the Churchyard of Oldham near to the steple syde—to Robert Langley my younger Son my howsing and grounds by the lawful favour of my good Master and Landlord and I besече my right wor^l Master M^r Assheton of Chaderton and M^r Hunte Mynister and all the residue of the gentlemen of the Parish that my said son Robert may allsoe supplie the office and enjoye the benefitt of the Clerkeshipp—my younger Children to be kept and maintained with Robert as my good Master shall think fitt for eight years—Children, Robert, Elizabeth, Margaret, Alice, Roger and Ann—M^r Tetlowe of Coldhurst, my Landlord, Supervisor and Robert Brearley and John Jackson Sen^r. Executors. Pr. at Cestr 4 Dec. 1592. *Lanc. MSS., Wills*, p. 113.

It was partly through the advice of this family that William Langley was devoted to the Church, and it may be that the family living was not forgotten by any of the parties in the educational scheme.

We have a glimpse of university life in this narrative as it existed nearly three centuries ago, as boys of fourteen or fifteen often went to college, and pursued their grammar school studies there. It may be that Langley went to Oxford about the year 1610 or 12, but his description of his pursuits is not pleasant. He was apparently a boy addicted to study, of good home training, of high principle, sound Churchmanship, and much liked by his associates. He might possibly be considered a model undergraduate, but he lived in evil days, and must be judged by those days and not by ours. Toasts and healths and drinkings were fashionable at that time, but such carousals will not admit of much commendation. He seems to have often erred through rashness and inexperience, and paid the penalty of his mistakes. He was brave and weak at the same time, and often fought against temptation, which ever and anon got the mastery over him and had to be wrestled against anew. He was of a melancholy nature, often despondent, and oppressed by gloomy doubts, which obviously arose from dyspepsia and severely studious habits. His aims were high, but perhaps the extent of his intellectual capacity was not great. It would have been well had he limited his exertions to his physical powers, and not have allowed the implacable demand of study to overtax, in so dangerous a manner, the brain

and the nerves. There is some evidence in his discursive statements that he was once in danger of dying of nervous exhaustion ; but a change took place which stayed the progress of disease and which might also interrupt the demand on the higher powers of the mind. Change of scene, mental rest, cheerful occupations, and varied amusements were in his time the wise hygienic remedies for the over-worked scholar. The nervous youth found his sedentary habits unsuited to his temperament, and doubtless his sage counsellors would not omit to urge, what is not forgotten by their successors, walking exercise for a couple of hours daily, in a bracing atmosphere and open sunshine, which, after his journeys from Oxford, we may hope that he met with, at that time, if not in Manchester, at least in the neighbourhood of his birth and boyhood.

He appears to have had the reputation of being a clever controversialist and a ready speaker, so that when he visited Manchester, the hot disputants and extreme men amongst the clergy, some of whom were notoriously disloyal to the English Church, sought him out, and endeavoured to draw him into controversy on points eagerly debated by them. There is something very touching in the probably young Oxford scholar, broken in health by severe study, and tortured in conscience by his failures in the performance of the more obvious moral duties, visiting his native county for change of scene, as well as for cessation of college work, being dragged forth by the old and subtle disputants, in order that they might "entangle him in his talk." He tells us what these subjects

and propositions were, and how unable he felt himself to cope with his opponents. He would not, however, desert his Oxford friends, who were evidently High Churchmen, nor would he abandon his principles, nor for a moment allow himself to be influenced by specious argument, ingenious sophistry, or popular clamour. He held fast his integrity, and remained unbiassed by all that he heard. As he tells us that he secretly envied, in the university, honourable and high-minded undergraduates who acted according to their convictions and kept themselves pure, so we may reasonably conclude that these precise and factious ecclesiastics honoured his sincerity and respected his consistency; but I fear that some of them were not overpoised with "the very bond of peace and of all virtues," for they held that all men of his views were "scandalous, insufficient and ignorant," and had they been commissioners for "trying" and he one of the "tried," I fear he would soon have been silenced.

This incident, which had made a deep impression upon his mind, took place before 1633, as in that year the Rev. Abdias Assheton passed to another life (note, p. 14, *post*), his Church views having been those of the court, of Oxford, and of Mr. Langley.

As nothing is mentioned in the beginning part of the narrative about the king or the great Civil-War, it may be inferred that it does not extend to that period, as Mr. Langley's attachment to the Church of England is so marked that the royal cause would doubtless have been named, and his loyalty and affection expressed, in a becoming manner.

According to his own confessions and self-reproaches, we may conclude that Mr. Langley was a man of a morbid and irritable temperament, who took a severe view of human nature, and who wrote "bitter things" against himself. Trivial offences are magnified, and venial errors regarded as serious if not fatal crimes. His frame of mind was neither happy nor cheerful, and he cannot be regarded, as far as his own narrative supplies the material, as a healthy minded and soberly religious student. In the pursuit of letters few men lived to old age in that century. Excitement more than labour has always been unfavourable to longevity, and disease, arising from over-work and the pressure of over-excitement, is unfortunately still too common. The heart and brain, as well as the digestive organs, always have been and always will be affected by nervous disturbance and irregular hours, and the amount of physical suffering endured by the writers of the grand old folios of the seventeenth century will never be known, although we catch a glimpse of the distressing form it assumed in that age in this short narrative of the Prestwich Oxonian.

His errors and mistakes, his gloom and remorse, not unfrequently the consequences of his irregularity of life, probably passed away, and there seems to be some reason to infer, especially from the concluding passages of the narrative, that he became a good man and a devout Christian.

F. R. R.

* * * After the preceding remarks had been printed I submitted them to my friend Mr. J. E. Bailey, F.S.A. (the excellent author of the *Life of Dr. Thomas Fuller*), whose intimate knowledge of the minor theological writers of the seventeenth century is, perhaps, unsurpassed; and he kindly brought to ^{my} notice a forgotten, or little known, work (hereafter described), written by the Rev. William Langley, a zealous churchman and a devoted royalist, who had for his patron Sir George Booth of Dunham. On examining more closely and critically than I had done the bundle of manuscripts (see p. iv, *ante*) in the hand-writing of the author of the autobiographical sketch, and comparing them with the published writings of Mr. William Langley, Mr. Bailey appears to be fully justified in maintaining the opinion that they proceeded from the same pen and relate to the same individual.

I am indebted to Mr. Bailey for the following interesting observations on the subject, as also for the Index.

The MSS., amongst which the *Autobiographical Fragment* was found, consist of Sermons, Sermon-notes, a Treatise on the Supreme Power in England, College-exercises in Latin (in a younger hand, similar to that of the *Fragment*), and Extracts, &c., forming a sort of Theological Common-place Book.

The first of the Sermons is upon the text *Proverbs* xxiv, verse 21, preached after the death of Charles I., and was the first discourse which the writer delivered to some new hearers. He bitterly animadverts on the changes that "had lately fallen out," and on those who had been movers in them. "It is more proper for men studied in the laws than for me to show you how much they did oppose the laws of the land; and many have shown this very well & fully, & particularly Judge Jenkins" (pp. 3-4). This was the loyal David Jenkins, "a person of great abilities in his profession," who, when in 1650 the House of Commons was about to sentence him to be hanged, was resolved to suffer with Magna Charta under one arm and the Bible under the other. (*Ath. Oxon.* iij, 643, and cf. Grey's *Exam. of Neal's IVth Vol.*, 1739, pp. 7 seq.) The writer in other passages of the MSS. speaks of the Judge in terms of strong admiration.

The Treatise on the Supreme Power is in reference to the civil dissensions which began in 1640-2, and consists of about 100 pages. It is ready for the press, but does not seem to have been published, for it is neither found in Clavell's Catalogues, nor in Watt. This piece contains many passages that bear on the period of its composition. Such is that which follows :

"The roman dames as the poet [Persius] tels vs would sometimes pray in secret that their children might be rich & potent, that their husbands might be the next pretor, senator, or consul that was chosen : should the men who now haue rule & command or their wiues haue prayd seuen yeares ago that the king & all placed by him in offices of honor, rule, & commaund might bee brought in vnder their commaund & they enioy the rule & commaund of all, would it not haue been easie to discerne by what spirit they prayd tho they prayd extempore ?"

The entire pamphlet is conceived in a spirit of high royalism. The greater part of it was, says its author, penned before the death of the King, and some part of it not long after, "but I found no opportunity till now to publish it." The drift of it, as he further explains, was to move the King's adversaries to restore the captives and spoil which they had taken ; "& though (God bee prayed) they are now restored or regained in a wonderfull manner, yet I think the publishing of these meditations now, & that wthout any alteration, may conduce more to the good of them, for whose instruction they were pend, then if they had beene forthwth published after they were pend." It would be interesting to compare this Treatise with the *Short Reflections of Government* noticed hereafter, p. xxii.

Some of the Notes of Sermons towards the conclusion of the manuscript are taken from printed volumes, which prove to be the original editions of Dr. Thomas Jackson's works. Dr. Jackson, who lived 1579-1640, has been eulogized in Oley's *Life of George Herbert*, and (in our own day) by Southey. He became president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in 1630 (*Ath. Oxon.*, vol. ii, 664), and would, therefore, be contemporary with the writer of the *Fragment* when lecturer at Brasenose. The writer's appreciation of this theological giant is an indication of his own intellectual powers. There are several passages which mention Jackson by name ; and on a fly-sheet at the beginning of the *MSS.* are these words, which seem to refer to Jackson :

"I have not yet met wth any Author who hath so plainly explained the Scriptures w^{ch} teach the knowledge & imitation of Jes: Chr: so fully determined all controversies about these skrip: as this illu[s]trious author hath don. No man can possibly so exactly describe his life that his piety & learning may be as well perceived by reading it, as it may be by reading his books." The latter clause is thus improved: "His piety & learning may be better perceived by reading his books, as I think, then by any description that can be made of his life."

There seems very good reason to believe that the author of the *Autobiographical Fragment* and of the *MSS.* just described may be one William Langley, a royalist clergyman, who, in the year 1655, wrote a book called *The Persecuted Minister*. Such a clergyman comes into notice in Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, where (pt. ii, p. 419) the following entry appears:

"LANGLEY, ——. He was *Curate* at the *Chapelry* of *Edenfield* in *Lancashire* (for I take it to be *no other*); and *Silenced* by the *Second Classis* of that County."

The Rector of Bury, in which parish Edenfield is situated, was Peter Travis or Travers, B.D., of Westminster School and Trinity College; appointed Rector by Earl of Derby in 1633, and ejected in 1645. The particulars of the ejection of his Curate, Langley, are to be found in the Minutes of the Second Presbyterian Classis. On 13 January, 1647-8, a summons was drawn up by the meeting at Bury, Mr. John Harper being Moderator, for the appearance of sundry ministers, amongst whom was "Mr. Langley of Edenfield." At the next meeting, 10 February, all appeared except Mr. Langley and Mr. Stevenson of Whitworth; whereupon it was again ordered that they be sent unto to appear at the following meeting of the Classis. This message was disobeyed, and accordingly (9 March) an inhibition was ordered to be sent to Mr. Langley that he preach not at Edenfield till satisfaction be given by him unto this Classis. On 13 April the following minute was recorded: "That Mr. Langley contemptuously refusing to appeare upon his third summons, be Inhibited from preaching at Eatonfield chapel; and y^e Inhibition drawn up be sent to y^e Churchwarden there." Nothing more is said of the case until 12 September, when the aid of a Justice of the Peace was invoked: That whereas Mr. Langley, having usurped the place of a

minister at Edinfield, and there acts disorderly and unwarrantably, and hath several times been sent to by the Classis, but hath still refused to come before them, and goes on contemptuously in his disorder, he be complained of to a Justice of Peace that he may be dealt with according to ordinance of Parliament in that case. At length, 12 October, Mr. Langley put in an appearance: "Mr. Langley by a warrant from y^e Justice of Peace was brought before y^e Classis. Being demanded a reason for his proceedings, answered he was a minister to y^e Church of England, and might preach (upon desire) in any place. Upon further debate and contestation with him it was ordered that he should be again Inhibited, and the business referred to the Provincial Assembly,"* *i.e.*, to the general assembly of all the nine *Classes* of Lancashire, meeting at Preston. Nothing more is said of Langley in the local Bury minutes; and the probability is that he left the County.

Unfortunately the Christian name of this loyal sufferer does not appear in Walker's *Attempt*, in Walker's *MSS.* in the Bodleian Library, nor yet in the Bury Minutes. It seems probable, however, that he may be traced further as *William* Langley of Lichfield. In 1652, or earlier, a clergyman of that name, whom Walker elsewhere styles a M.A., is known to have been preaching on the same principles and in the same strain as had given offence in Lancashire; and a few years later published in *The Persecuted Minister* sentiments which, in form, and style, and spirit, are similar to those of the *MSS.* which have just been described. This book was brought under the notice of the writer of this note by the Rev. J. Ingle Dredge, the Vicar of Buckland Brewer, Devonshire, who, suspecting a connection between its author and the writer of the *Fragment*, extracted from the book the passages which bore on Langley's personal history. These passages fully bear out Walker's supposition that in the book Langley was exemplifying his own case, for they are in accord with the history and opinions of the man with whom this introduction is dealing.

The Persecuted Minister was published on the 20 November, 1655 (British Museum copy, E 860/4), under Langley's name. It does not appear to have come under the notice of either Walker, who said he had not been able to get a sight of it (pt. ii, p. 299), or of Calamy

* From a copy of the Minutes in the hands of the writer of this note.

(*Contin.*, p. 772); but it is mentioned by à Wood (vol. iii, p. 409), who introduces it in his account of William Langley of Berkshire* in these terms:

"One Will. Langley late of S. Mary's in the city of Lichfield minister, hath written *The Persecuted Minister* . . . 1656 in 2 parts in qu. . . . Quære whether he died in 1655?" The query is suggested by the words "late of S. Maryes" on the title page; but that phrase merely described the writer's relation to his sequestered living. The full title of the treatise is as follows:

"The persecuted MINISTER, in defence of the MINISTERIE, the great Ordinance of Jesus Christ. *Setting forth* the severall names of Apostles, Prophets, &c. 1. That there is a Ministerial Office. 2. That the Sacrament of Baptisme by a Lay-person is invalid. 3. That necessity is no plea. 4. That the long omission of the Lords Supper is unwarrantable. With many other things, plainly and methodically handled. By WILLIAM LANGLEY late of S. *Maryes* in the City of *Lichfield*, Minister. The First Part. Prov. 9. 9. Give instruction to a wise man, &c. London. Printed by J. G. for *Richard Royston* at the Angel in Ivie-lane. 1656." 4to, pp. xxiv, 180, iv containing a catalogue of books printed for Royston (the royalist publisher).

The first part of the work, which is dated "from my study at Lichfield, July 9, 1655," is inscribed to Sir Thomas Leigh, Knt. Langley, in thankful terms, speaks of unmerited and manifold favours which he received at the hands of this patron, whose incomparable lady and hopeful progeny are also mentioned. Then follows an epistle to his dearly beloved charge the parishioners of St. Mary's; followed by another, "Ad Lectorem & Lictorem. To the Candid and Ingenuous Reader, and also to Momus and his Mates."

The second part, beginning at page 101, has a separate title page, as before, setting forth: "1. The continuance of it [the ministry]. 2. What is required to the constituting of the Gospel-Ministers. 3. The excellency and dignity of their calling. 4. What respect they ought to

* This William Langley was a student of Pembroke College, 1629, æt. 19, born in Abingdon, the son of a father of the same name. Another of the same name and college, M.A., son of William Langley of Oakingham, Berks., was living at York, 1665, æt. 57, and married Ann, daughter of Henry Langley of Hill End, Berks (*Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire*).

bee of amongst Christians. 5. That the contempt of them is a great and grievous sin. All which are plainly and methodically handled." This portion is dedicated to Sir George Booth, Knight and Baronet, who was akin to the former patron, "a highly honoured friend of mine." Langley particularly commends Sir George's piety in the worship of God, and pity to all his poor distressed members; and he adds that he had himself received many testimonies of his patron's respect. Then follow two epistles, one to the Candid and Ingenious Reader, and the second To M. and his Mates.

It cannot be ascertained from this book at what time Langley came to Lichfield, except that it was before September, 1652 (p. 82). It may reasonably be supposed that his first sermon was that on *Proverbs* xxiv, 21, described *antedè* (p. xiv). In chapter ix. of his book, on the neglect of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the author states that on first coming to Lichfield he began, after due preparation of his congregation, to administer that ordinance, but some who were more precise than wise took offence thereat. Langley was accordingly censured, and his person exposed to much calumny, "being the beginning of a sad persecution" (p. 49). He enumerates his sufferings, which comprised false aspersions, lying informations, sinful compliance, and cruel unchristian persecution "to the undoing of a poor wife and children" (p. 83).^{*} His chief opponent seems to have been a Mr. John Butler, M.A., who, sent thither from London, had, in June, 1651 (p. 96), been appointed to a joint charge of the city, viz., as minister of Stowe, *i.e.*, St. Chad's, for which he received 150*l.* per annum (p. 79). Langley, who according to Calamy (*Contin.* p. 774) came to the city after Butler's settlement, was appointed to the other charge, viz., St. Mary's. But, in contravention of an arrangement, Butler wished to obtain Langley's charge. The latter resisted, averring that Butler had obtained his appointment "upon a false certificate that he was a minister of the gospel," and yet had never been ordained (p. 79). Walker (ii, 299) mentions this cause of disagreement, which resulted in Langley's resignation. It was stated in the articles brought against the latter, as given in Walker, "that he had preached on

^{*} Harwood, *Hist. of Lichfield*, 4to, 1806, p. 464, says that upon a grave-stone in the middle of the chancel of S. Mary's was this inscription: "Hic jacent filius et filia [filia] Mri. Gul. Langley. Deodatus obiit Martii 6. anno 1653, cum dixerit 9 mens. et 17 dies. Ianu. [Jane?] obiit Julii 21. an. 1656, cum vixerit 1. ann. et 11. menses. Deus retrahit sua, non abstrahit nostra. Credo Carnis Resurrectionem et vitam æternam." This is a singularly beautiful epitaph, expressing the Christian's resignation and triumph.

Christmas day, and administered the sacrament by the Common Prayer-Book. His family were afterwards exposed to want." The *Persecuted Minister* was of course written after the author's sequestration from the living (p. 91). The writer bitterly inveighs against his supplanter, whose conduct, he asserts, had exceeded the bounds of religion, reason, and common civility. The following passage is worthy of record here :

"I shall conclude this with an expression of Mr *Butlers* to Mr *Crafton*,* *That at that time he came to Lichfield there was no Ordination in London.* I blush and admire at your frivolous excuses and groundlesse assertions : was there no Ordination in *London* from *June 1651*, at which time you were motioned to *Lichfield* till *May* following 1652. Had you been as carefull to have been ordained, as you were covetous of means, you might not have wanted Ordination. The Committee for the Universities, and the Trustees and Committee for plundred Ministers had your name given them as a Minister, and a Certificate to that purpose ; for they never settled any in any place but such of whom they received testimony that they were Ministers of the Gospel. I wonder by whose means and solicitations those Testimonies and Certificates were procured, who was guilty of these deliberate untruths. Did the Minister subscribe ignorantly ? the sin of misinformation was yours ; if knowingly, then both equally guilty : how can you free your self from æquivocation and juggling in this kinde ? Upon these Certificates you were assigned to a publick Charge, and had the allowance of 150^{li} *per annum*, preached, baptized, and married. Are these light and sleight things ? Have you not cause to be humbled, and lay aside your vain and frivolous excuses ; to cozen your brethren, to delude a Committee ? Oh admirable policy ! to abuse a city with pretence of what you were not, proudly to usurp the Ministerial Office, are of small account or reckoning with you ; yet this is not all : it is a true observation, *Vix bono peraguntur exitu, quæ malo sunt inchoata principio.* Things ill begun, are not commonly well ended. You have abundantly manifested this, not onely by your schisme, which hath caused a wide breach in a peaceable City, though I used all possible means to prevent it : being truly sensible of those sad effects

Witnesse
Sir R. D.
Dr. H.
Mr. Crof.*
and Hen. H.

* This appears to have been Zachary Crofton, who had been ejected from Wrenbury for refusing the Engagement. He was afterwards of London and Newcastle-under-Lyne ; and had the acquaintance both of Newcome and Martindale.

and consequences that ensue upon the division of Ministers, that nothing would content you but a distinct Charge contrary to the order of settlement which enjoyned a joynt charge of the City and Parishes thereunto belonging, had we continued as one, would have been a strong motive to have perswaded the City to follow our example ; but you must needs row to the North, and leave me alone in the South. At your first coming to *Stowe* you owned the people as your flock ; you had not been there above two moneths, but your friends sent to a member of the Council of State (doubtlesse not unknown to you) to bring you to that place and people you had before denied ; you have now your longed expectation, though to my unspeakable trouble. And let the City judge whether I ever in the least troubled or disquieted you in your place. I shall pass by your scornfull language to Mr. *Cr.* in which you discovered a great deal of pride and malice. I am constrained to adde one thing, and were there nothing else, that bespeaks you most unworthy, that you had privately a hand in my bitter persecution for the accomplishing of your self-ends. * * * All is well so long as you fare well and rule the roost ; you took a politick course how to be assured to feed your self, before you fed your flock : and to haue maintenance, before you were a Minister : what a preposterous thing is this, neither lawfull by Mans or GODS Laws, that such should haue Church-means that were not Church-men, or set apart to the Ministry ? * * * It is justly to be feared, now you are arrived at the pitch of your desires, you will involve the poor City in much confusion, and disorder ; for, Schismaticks are men of unquiet and turbulent spirits, and your actions bespeak you a proud, seditious, and self-ended Man : and now forsooth you are got to be a Commissioner for ejecting of scandalous Ministers : it is a braue world, when vice rebukes sin ; hopes of a glorious Reformation ” (pp. 96–98).

It would be quite in keeping with the facts of Langley's life to conclude that he was implicated in the Cheshire Rising under his patron, Sir George Booth. But the next certain knowledge of Langley is derived from a second pamphlet, which he issued soon after May 1660, when the King had his own again, a copy of which has been preserved in the British Museum, but not in the Bodleian Library. It is a tract of sixty-four leaves, and it has a place in the Catalogue of Printed Books in the British Museum, whence it has been copied into Watt's *Bib. Brit.*; but

a more full title is given under July, 1660, in Kennet's *Register*, p. 216. The British Museum copy has the following title :

"The Death of Charles the First Lamented, with the Restauration of Charles the Second Congratulated : Delivered in a *Speech*, at the Proclaiming of our gracious KING, at his Town of *Wellington*, May 17. 1660. To which are added, short *Reflections* of Government, Governours, and persons governed. The duty of *Kings* and *Subjects*, the unlawfulness of Resistance, with other things of moment, and worthy consideration. By *William Langley*, late of *Lichfield*, Minister now of *Wellington*, his Majesties faithful, loyall, Subject. *The Land is defiled with blood.* Psal. 106. 38. *It cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of them that shed it,* Numb. 35. 33. They that in spilling blood such pleasure have, Let them not go, but bleeding to their grave. London, Printed by T. R. for *R. Lowndes*, at the white *Lyon* in *St. Pauls Church yard*, and *Sym Gape*, next to *Hercules Pillars* in *Fleetstreet* 1660." 12mo.

The book is dedicated to "the ever Honoured, truly, noble, and constant lover of his King and Country, Sir Thomas Leigh, K^t." (A 3), and the author refers to his patron's "many respects, and unmerited favours congested and heaped upon me in my poor low condition, occasioned by the injustice of those in Authority, and malice of Adversaries (whom God forgive) depriving me of my means, the support and livelihood of my wife and children"; as also to "your great sufferings for Charles the first of blessed memory." He adds, "My first Treatise, in defence of the Ministry, (in such times as few mouths were open for it, and not without apparent danger and hazard to myself,) . . . was by you as curteously entertain'd, as faithfully offered." And he concludes with "heartly wishes of all reall happiness to your noble self, most vertuous Lady, and sweet children," signing himself "Your Worships hearty Lover and faithfull servant W. Langley." This dedication is dated "From my study at *Wellington*, May 24. 1660."

Of the speech itself we are told at the conclusion of Chapter i (p. 38), that it "was ended with the general acclamations of all the commers, there being no small concourse of Gentlemen who discovered, fervorem in affectu, cheerfulness in their affection deserving wreathed Coronets

for their willing and cheerfull obedience . . . nor a small number of Commons, praise worthy too, all discharging their pistols and muskets, that the very skies eccho'd to their joys." There are no further personal notes.

According to the *Diary* of Henry Newcome (p. 141), "Mr. William Langley," was preaching at Manchester on Sunday, 23 November 1662, on *Rev.* iii, 19 ("as many as I love I rebuke and chasten : be zealous therefore and repent"), at both ends of the day. From the fact that the parishes of both ministers at an earlier period in their lives had not been far asunder, a personal acquaintance might be implied ; and hence Newcome may have thought when making this entry that any further note of the identification of Langley would be superfluous.

Amongst Canon Raines' *Gaskell Deeds* there is a bond dated 3 May 1665, whereby William Langley of Wellington, in the county of Salop, Clerk, is bound to Daniel Gaskell of Clifton, in the county of Lancaster, Lynen-draper, in 420*l.*, to keep the covenant of a deed of release between the said parties, of this date. Witnesses, John Asheton, Adam Mather, Peter Asshiton, and Roger Lowe. The Gaskells at the Restoration were of Clifton, near Manchester (separated by the Irwell from Prestwich parish), and were close allies of the Kays, Hardmans, Milnes, and Cromptons. (*Lanc. MSS.*)

The evidence to be derived from this bond clearly identifies William Langley with Prestwich and Wellington, and leads to the conclusion that he was the writer of the Chadderton *MSS.*

NOTES.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 14, line 9 from foot, *for* "the Master" *read* "Fellow," and after "College" *read* "and Master of S. John's."

Page 15, last line but one, after "him," *add* "*Crim. Trials.*"

Page 22, line 9 from foot, *for* "Governor's" *read* "Governors'."

LANGLEY OF PRESTWICH:

*An Autobiographical Fragment, written about the time
of Charles the 1st.*

I WAS borne at Prestwiche Anno Christi 1596 my father M. Langley being at that time Curet to his cosen who was y^e parson there. I was brought up there in my youth and went to y^e Gra^m schole at Manchester¹ where I receyved good instructⁿ in Gra^mar learninge before I was entred at Brazennose colledge oxon. my father beinge wrought upon by M^r Will^m Langley² and M. Asheton of Chaderton³ to send me thither. I was from my youth given to industry and was seasoned well with pure religion and letters so that after I comēncd M of Arts I was chosen to read the Humanity Lecture.

When I was a childe, I did as the Ap.[ostle] says children doe,⁴ I was tempted with luste⁵ and aft^r y^t was frequently troubled wth fits of incontinence & many tymes wth heavynes of hart, greate feare in the night when I was alone and sometimes in the day w^{ch} did so deiect & trouble my spirit y^t I was very desirous to get rid of it, but neither knew what I feared nor what was y^e cause of my feare. My parents had not been negligent of me as they feared God and trained their childⁿ in y^e path of godlines, and divine exercises were dayly observed. My tutors also were pleased with my progress in learninge, but Quintilian had observed⁶ that in pueris elucet spes plurimorum quæ ubi emoritur ætate, manifestum est, non defecisse naturam sed curam and even the fear of falling away and not reaching the goale before me often disturbed my boyhood's peace. My father lamented my weaknesse and sought to settle my fears by poynting out to me that my

bodye was overwrought by much study and not corrupted by sloth and that my gloom was part of the *lex peccati*, so he bid me seek in prayer *Jehovah-rophi*⁷ and to avoid all little sins, in *minimis pro maximis cavere*.

I learnt y^t o^e n^ẽs at the first are very sensibl of the grievanc of lust tho^e they app^rhend not that lust is the cause of this greivance ; for as a heavy weight it opp^rseth and duls y^e pow^{rs} or as fetters bind them from their p^per motives, and is as a darksome cloud w^{ch} hinders the light of knowledge from appearing to vs : See *Burtons Melanc* :⁸ but being taken & sore chastised for this fault fear to comit it was hereby grafted in a tender heart that long aft^r being tempted at Manchester when I was of riper years I abhorred & shund all those alurements, yet sometimes fits of incontinence did troble me and seemed to grow altho I often pondered Hieroms counsel *nolo sinas cogitationem crescere* and sometimes as I paced my chamber alone quoting his words seemed to find a little ease. And at that time o^r Church dissensions did oppresse me, and I saw no bow in the cloud, and all was darke, especially when I came into y^e country from oxon. Then I met wth y^e frownes of my once freinds but now freinds no more, who did not see evill in contention nor good in y^e Church, whos orders and laws they openly brake, and incontinently made wide rents and ugly schisms, but as for peace and holiness they left them to the world, where they never yet were found. Once when speaking of these dissensions, when at Middleton, in the psence of some of my elders, a godly P^echer, M. Abdias Asheton,⁹ softly said unto me, in quibus, nec vitia nostra pati possumus nec remedia, and the saying was well directed to M. Bourne¹⁰ and M. Shawe.¹¹ Sometimes I did eate things at Oldam w^{ch} I feard were more pleasant than wholesome, sometimes I tooke to much of what was not wholsom as opp^rsed my stomak & bred payn therin ; but while I was at scole I did abstayne from all strong drinks & had no such thinge offered me ; once at Middleton in y^e alehouse I drunk a litle ale w^{ch} did forthwth so dull & amase my braine y^t I tould Rafe A.¹² I would

never do so more, and at Manch^r I yeilded once to goe to Haliwells¹³ to drink strong beere but I drank litle & my hart was unquiet & troubled wth feare al the while I was there. And all this time I was g^rally studious & industrious & had pleasure in my books nor did any impurity issue from me. So civilly bred was I that once at Ordsal being bid drink a bowl of beare in a morning I could not. Nor did I euer before I went to Oxford drink a health, but at Oxford I quickly began to drink healths & wth so doing I was twice extreame sick upon my first waking: y^e second time upon my waking fynding my stomak sore opprest I did arise about 3 of klok & went into the Fellows garding, for it was so^mer, when I sat down & was so vehemently opprest wth payn that I thought I should have dyed instantly. Wherupon I vehemently lift up my hart to God that He would p^don me & preserve me at this tyme & I would never do so agayn. Wherupon I instantly vomited apples w^{ch} I had eaten, amongst our cupps, w^{ch} had been so parched & dried in y^e stomak that ther was no ioyce or moysture remayning in them: and p^sently after I was rid of payn and felt very well agayn. Yet did I not keepe my purpos thus solemnly made thus graciously & instantly remanded. I soon forget it and after yeilded to like exces again. One time when Rafe A.¹⁴ who was wth me at Oxford and iust my age tould me that such a good fellow was come to see me, my hart smit me and forwarned me that I should be like to drink in his company more than was fittinge, yet I went to him & drank with him though I had litle acquaint^e wth him and he was no scholar but one of meane account. When I was alone in my Chamber and in sober moode I thought of the nights revel and I did weep bitterly, but sadly rememb^d that Quintilian had said nihil facilius lachrymis arescit¹⁵ and I proved its truth in my own miserable experience. When I had thus weakly yeilded to smal temptations of my companions or inferiors I was tempted afterwards by men of learning and account and greatly my superiors after I was M. of Arts. One tyme, however, being sent for of my Tutor & well knowing for what purpos I reasoned y^e matter

wth myself whether I should go & I feared exceedingly both present & after harm if I went and was very loath to go, yet I went. Thus when we have yeilded against the cheks of conscience & something better, to such temptations as we might easily wthstand we shall have greater when we are less able to wthstand than we were at the beginning; for y^e oftener we yeild y^e more frail we are to yeild againe. After I had thus comitted wilful sin seuerall tymes my hart was opp^{rs}ed wth heavines & a great burden w^{ch} I knew not how to get ridd of. I was now truly wretched. I felt that I lived for nothing and was wthout hope for a tyme, sine re, sine spe. I carryed faire in Colledge and had freinds who lived more fre, and who knew not of my cheks & temptations, but there were wise undergrad^s who in my hart I envied & followed them in some of their ways tanquam legibus jussa, non tanquam Diis placentia even as Seneca did who knew not what I knew and saw not what I saw.

In these fits of disobedience I never remembered my former exces nor suspected it the cause therof, for having for awhile before lived civilly and not drunk any thing at all for w^{ch} my hart did greatly chek me not being guilty of exces at this time when my heavines befell me I never suspected it for the author of it; for when the extremity of dulnes or pain w^{ch} exces always brought me was once past I thought then at the evil was past too, and that I was as well again as ever. I rather thought that much study, hard thought, and sitting often through the night with my books might caus my heavines & so I had read in *Scola Salerni*:¹⁶ and indeed when o^r facultys are overlayd wth exces study is irksome, but els most pleasant & adds chearfulnes & vigor to o^r spirits. But it is wonderfull to see how God did punish these beginnings of evil though I apprehended it not. My spirit was cast down wth heavines, being daily filled wth the taunts reproach & scorn of the proud, disquieted and torn wth hatred & wrath of those who had ill-will to Zion and to me. But just is it with God to give them over to the lash of scorn & taunting tonges who are not asshamed to commit such wickednes.

I was now at a stand, and confounded in my studys, full of doubts & fears & led on wth vain fancys & imaginations. In Colledge I could dispute on no error or fals appearance nor set my hart to search after Truth, and if by chance I apprehended any material truth it vanished & I could make no impression on my wandering & unsettled spirit nor could I teach others. Sysiphus like I resumed my vayn fancies agayn and agayn & was led in a round. When I came to an end, I was even to begin. My memory & intellectuals quite failed me so that I misquoted passages & doted & mistook in ordinary talk & quite forget many things I was to do. I could not at that time be in company or society wth out shame & trouble. I seemed to myself to be had in reproach, and when I was to go amongst my betters my hart was full of fear & disquieted wth care w^t to say & do & how to behave myself. And when I was amongst mixed society I knew not how to looke, my hart was grieved wth in me, my countenance sour, though once smiling, my behaviour sillie, though once grave ; so that it was a greif to me to thinke I was to leave my Chamb^r and to go any whither. When I had to write or translate or invent any thing or had any other business it was a burden & a grieffe to me. I could not induce myselfe to set to it. I was advised to leave Oxford & go into the Country amongst my friends, but when I got to Manchester I could not conceal myselfe. I soon met with hot disputants who loved neither the Church nor Oxford & who assayed to draw one in to controversy ab^t Episcopacy & Church Order & our ancient Liturgy but I was often so dull & heavy that I could not argue as I ought to have, although I knew y^t my cause was good & theirs rotten, & that mine in o^r hands w^d have been easily defended beyond all gainsaying, so that I had to comfort myself with S. Austin, tu, ratiocinare, ego mirer ; disputa tu, ego credam.

While I was in the country I had some respite & ease by physic, & recreation, & the care of my friends ; but soon after when new & greater temptations arose I yeilded to intemperance,

though my rheume, coughs & inward stoppings & burnings, Drowsines and intermission of my wonted alacrity & activenes, did testify my body to be corrupt. At last my speech was taken away wth distillations & I laid aside all study & never opened a book, & this I did by the advice of M. Mynshull the chirurgion¹⁷ who attended me. Four months & more being past my voyce was restored, four or fyve months after that I stayd still at home and then went to Oxford again; but I fell soone into great languishment, intermitting my studys by recreation, & getting some cordials at Voux.¹⁸ I got strength again to go into the country where when I was settled & freed from a busie mind I found ease by bodily exertion & pleasure & it was very welcome to my thirsty, weary, and worn out spirit. Wherefore I thought that I had hitherto refrayned my self to much from pleasure & that now I would enioy the pleasure of my youth, not keep select a choice company give my self to mirth & revive my spirit wth pleasant meats & drinks. But alas! all my former troubles were nothing to thos w^{ch} this cours soone bred in mee. Before this my sicknesses were kindly. I was neither troubled wth doubts nor fears of mind on solemn subjects nor wth distempered hunger & thirst, nor wth much impatience, nor wth sullen discontent; but now I was troubled wth many longings, my food would not pleas me; I w^d have had many things w^{ch} I had not; many things otherwise ordered than they were. I was dissatisfied and nothing would pleas me. In my sicknes I was afraid to eat not knowing a mean. I did not so much accus my selfe by eating so much when indeed I did, as I did at other times when I had eaten so little. My stomak was so discompounded & weak that a little w^d make me sick & could scarce eat any thing wth out payn. I was in every thing uncertain & apt to accus myself with things w^{ch} were utterly unfounded. I was wholly estranged from all good employments. Every good work and all good exercises were distasteful unto me. I became such a slave to my appetite that when my hart tould me that instead of fasting I eat shamefully to much & when my stomak was already sore opprest

I could not refrayn til I had stretcht my belly & trawnced it wth the . . . payn of y^e rack, & my meat became a heavy burden to me . . . all y^e day long.¹⁹ Lust grew raging in me & in the Church of God & at y^e tymes wherein I received the Holy Communion I was not free from the greivous provoking thereof. But this is most to be wondered at—I was strangely led or driven wth a vayn imagination when first I was disabled from my ordinary studys and employments. Forthwith I did nothing but think & tumble vayn conceits to & fro in my uneasy mind all the day long, & when I was heartily weary yet I could not leave thinking, & though when I gave myselfe to ease and had bid farewell to the Muses²⁰ this humour seized & sottish dotage came in the room therof. Yet did it always take me in y^e time of Prayers, of divine service, & when I heard Sermons or Gods holy word read unto me, for then was my mynd exceedingly busyed wth lustful or other vayn & proud imaginations and my ears wholly stoped from attending to the busynes in hand. It is true that I very often did sore afflict myself wth much Fasting, bodily labor, hard study, & thoughtfulness how to redres these matters. But I did it in a muddled and distracted mind, apt even then to be deluded wth many foolish suggestions, not able to examine any thing properly, nor to discover either the right way or the wrong. At last deliverance came & the grace of God was sufficient for me. I resisted the Enemy on my knees, at Thy Cross, blessed Jesu! and I felt that, restitisse vicisse est.

* * * * *

NOTES.

¹ The names of Langley's schoolmasters are not recorded. If he went early to school, as was then usual, he would be a pupil both of Mr. Chetham and Mr. Clayton. Mr. Whatton merely gives these names without dates (*Hist. Manchester Grammar School*, p. 103, 4to, 1828), and states erroneously, in a note to the former, that he was the brother of Henry, and nephew of Humphrey Chetham, the Founder. Mr. Edward Chetham, the schoolmaster, was the second son of Henry Chetham of Crumpsall, gent., and was baptized at the Collegiate Church, being an elder brother of Humphrey Chetham the Founder. It is worthy of note, that although the Christian name of his grandfather, Edward, was given him at his baptism, and he is called by that name in several family settlements, in his own Will, dated 28 December 1602, and proved at Chester, 9 January 1603-4, he is described as "Edmund Chetham, M.A., high scholemaster of y^e gramar schole of Manchester," and singularly enough desires "to be buried in the *Cathedrall* Church of Manchester." He was buried with his ancestors on the 21st January 1603-4. (*Chetham Evid.*)

His successor, as "High Master," was Edward, third son of William Clayton of Little Harwood Hall, in the parish of Blackburn, Gent. He was M.A. of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and probably a fellow of the same society. He was nephew of Laurence Clayton, rector of Eythrop Roding, Essex; and in 1567 his father was appointed an original governor of the Blackburn Grammar School. Mr. Edward Clayton was a remainder man in the settlement of the family estate by his eldest brother, John Clayton, Gent., who died in 1624 (Abram's *Hist. of Blackburn*, p. 558). "Edward Claiton, Gent., M.A., and High Master of Manchester Free School," made his will, 20 May 1628, proved at Chester (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxvii, p. 148).

² Mr. William Langley. For some account of this rector see *Chetham Miscellanies*, vol. v, notes, pp. 19-26. His son, John Langley, M.A., there named, was elected fellow of S. John's College, Cambridge, 14 April, 1603, on Dr. Asheton's foundation (Baker's *St. John's*, p. 292).

³ The individual named was probably James Assheton of Chaderton, Esq., who married Dorothy, daughter and coheirress of Sir Robert Langley, and obtained with her the advowson of Prestwich. He had no issue by her, nor by his second wife, Ann, daughter of John Talbot of Whalley, Esq. He was an old man when Langley, the autobiographer, went to Oxford, and in 1606 founded a Grammar School in Oldham. He was an earnest Puritan, and the patron of the Langleys of Prestwich and of Hunt of Oldham. I have his original will with an official indorsement of the registrar of Chester; it was dated 5 May, 1612, and admitted for proof 8 October, 1613, but not left in the court. No lands are devised by it. The testator names that Oswald Moslaye of Ancoates, Gent., and others, owed him 210*l.*, by bond dated 21 April last; Raphe Holden of Holden, Esq., and others, owed him 100*l.*, by bond dated 24 October last; Ambrose Jackson of Blakley, and others, owed him 105*l.*, by bond dated 20 April last; Mr. John Langley Parson of Prestwich owed him 25*l.*, by bond dated 22 June last; Mr. Thomas Hunt, late preacher at Oldham, owed him 8*l.* 16*s.*, by bond dated 7 May last; Robert Brearley of Pawden, his tenant, owed him 11*l.*, by bond dated 20 October last; Laurence Habergham of Habergham, Esq., 66*l.*, by bond dated 1 April last; Richard Nuttall of Nuttall, Gent., and others, owed him 44*l.*, by bond dated 10 April; and these sums he bequeathed, by his last will and testament, as follows: "I give to Ann, my wife, 100*l.*; to Ann Assheton, eldest daughter of Richard Assheton, late of Oldham, Gent., deceased, my brother, 120*l.*; to Alice Assheton, another daughter of my said brother Richard, 120*l.*; to my cosin, John Assheton, 20 nobles, which I owe him by promise; to my servant, Susanna Kay, 5 marks; to Jane Assheton, another daughter of my said late brother, 33*l.* which I received from her mother, being the filial and child's part of her goods, and 3*l.* for the use thereof; I give more to my said cosen, Jane Assheton, 200*l.*; and I make the said Jane Assheton and Roger Kay my servant, executors; and I desire my cosen, William Assheton, to be overseer, and to see my will faithfully executed (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxxv, p. 17, orig. documents). There are no other bequests or devises. For some further notice of him see Gastrell's *Not. Cest.*, vol. ii, pt. ii, p. 116, note 12.

The heir and successor of James Assheton, Esq., is not named by him in the above abstracted will, but by *Inquisition post mortem* taken 2 Oct., 10 Jac., 1613, Edmund Assheton of Chadderton and of High Shuttle-

worth, in the county of Lancaster, was found heir to his uncle, James Assheton, Esq., being the only son of Richard Assheton, Gent., deceased. He, Edmund Assheton, had issue, by his wife Dorothy, daughter of Robert Dukenfield of Dukenfield, Esq., five sons and six daughters, three of the latter being the wives of clergymen; and the second daughter, Katherine, the wife of the Rev. William Langley, supposed to be the writer of this autobiographical fragment (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxxi, p. 171). There is in the above cited volume of *Lanc. MSS.* (vol. xxxv, p. 13) an original will (not proved, and probably cancelled) of Edmund Assheton of Chaderton, Esq., dated 16 December, 1623, he, at the time, "being sicke and weake in bodye, but of sound and perfect memorie, praised be the Lord. I bequeath my Soul into the hands of my Redeemer, through whose meritorious death and passion I am assured of my Salvation, and my bodie to be buried in my Chancell within the Church of Oldham, and as for those transitorie goods which the Lord of his goodness hath lent unto me I give as follows: I bequeath to my son James Assheton 'the fyrst of my strengthe,' all the Tables with their formes, the Iron chimney, Armes, Guns, Pykes, Halberts, and all other furniture standing and being *in the Hall*. *In the Great Parlour*, one long foldinge-table and one square table, a little cupboard, one iron chimney, one p^r of and-irons, one p^r of Virginalls one redleather guilt Chear, one back stoole, and six high stooles and the Tapestry Hangings. *In the New Parlour*, a pair of bedsteads with the tester of taffetie, and Curtains, 1 feather bed, 1 mattress, 2 blanketts, 2 cadows of Tapestry, and one Silk Quilte, one liv'rie table, one looking glasse. *In the Mistress' Parlour*, one iron chimney, one Chear, two stooles, with the Hangings, & one table. *In the Little Parlour*, one longe foulding table, one little foulding table. *In the Great Chamber*, two p^r of bedstocks, two feather beds, one liv'rie table, four blankets, two Cadows, one of Tapestry worke, one sett chear, and two stooles, and the Hangings in the Chamber. *In the Cornall (Colonel) Chamber*, two pair of bedstocks and one great Wooden Chear. *In the Still Chambr* one p^r of bedstocks, one feather bed with the lesser Curtains, one greene Chear, one warminge pan, with the greatest sweet Trunke, standing in the Chambr. Also all my Bookes in *my own Closett*. One litle table in which are my evidences, one litle trunke wth writings, two long boxes with locks on them, one square Box without any lock, one disconte Cheste, two other small boxes, all these havinge my writings in them. One other Table in which are my old evidences,

one little Trunk with other Writings, two long Boxes with locks, one square box which contains papers. In the *Stearhead Chamber*, two large Presses, wth all the Armour and Furniture for the Lord, for the Wars, in them. In the *Kitchen*, Beefe tubbs, one Saltinge tubb for a swyne, one Board with the shelves. In the *Brew House* all my Brewing Beares, Coolers and other vessels, and standings in the brew house. In the *Sinke*, one great Stone Cistern, two stone troughs. In the *Meal House*, two Meal Arks, one great Dust Ark standing between the Meal Ark and the *Bake House*. *Maidens Chamber* one p^r of Bedstocks. In the *Wives Closet* one standing cupboard. One Kilne to dry Corn in, and the Cloths in the Higher Kilne, with Plows, Harrows, horsegears, with their yokes, teames, and furniture, Carts, Waines, and my Gray Stone Colt. Also one Bason and Ure of silver parcel guilt, one greate silver bowle, one silver Cup p^{cel} guilt, and the Dornax hangings in the Parlour, all these to my eldest Son. I give to my mother Ann Assheton, ten Sieves of the best Oat Corne I have in Chaderton Barn to be thrashed, winnowed, and delivered to her (yf wth convenience it may be wthin two months after the day of my decease.) I give to Ann Kenion, daughter of my Sister Jane, wife of Roger Kenion of Whalley, Gent. and to Dorothy Allens, daughter of my Sister Ann, wife of Mr. Isaak Allens Preacher of God's Word at Oldham 100 marks betwixt them; to Saville Radclyffe of Todmorden Esq. a Bed, and I appoint him and my loving brother-in-law Roger Kenion of Park Head my Executors, and I give them 4*l*. between them. To my daughter Dorothy Assheton 70*l*. due to me from my brother-in-law Robert Dukenfield of Dukenfield Esq. named in my Marriage Articles now in the custody of Sir Peter Legh of Lyme Knt. and I give her certain Rents (described) due to me during the next eight years. I give all privye Tythes, Offerings, Mortuaries, and Church Duties, due to me issuing out of the Parish or Chapellry of Ouldham, and belonging to the Chappel or Church of Ouldham to go for or towards the Chapplene his Wages, to fynd a Preaching Minister att the Parish Church or Chappel of Ouldham. I desire Sir Raphe Assheton of Whalley, Baronet, my worthy good friend to see this my Will truly executed."

Indorsed. Dec. the last 1623. In readie silver & gold 200*l*., and as I take itt some more. E. A. List of debts due to me (*given*).

The testator recovered of his illness, was high sheriff of Lancashire in 1628, afterwards a suffering Royalist, and died anno 1650.

⁴ 1 Cor. xiii, 11.

⁵ This word was used at this period with general reference to all inordinate desires, and not only in its present more limited acceptation. I remember Zachary Gray quoted from one of the Puritan Diaries the following: "I have often mourned over my early sins with sighs and tears, and in particular my immoderate and wicked lust for fruit and pastry." C.

⁶ Vol. i, p. 48, edit. Lemaire, Paris 1821, 8vo. C.

⁷ Probably a reference to *Exod.* xv, 26; in Hebrew, JEHOVAH ROPHE, the Lord, the Physician.

⁸ Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* was first published in quarto in 1621, with a view of relieving the author's own melancholy. When Langley matriculated at Brasenose, Burton, who had been a commoner of the same college a few years before, was still living in the city, being Vicar of S. Thomas', and the melancholy but facetious vicar would be personally known to this young undergraduate. Burton died in 1639, aged 63. Dr. Johnson called the attention of the public to the forgotten merits of this most learned, quaint and pleasant author, and speaks of his witty book as the only one that ever drew him from his bed two hours before he was willing to rise. In our day Southey, Coleridge and a host of clever writers have contributed to extend the fame of Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, and it is pleasant to know that two original works, like Hooker's and Burton's, were known at Prestwich by the Langleys, very soon after their publication (*Cheth. Miscell.*, vol. v, p. 26, note). Dr. Ferriar of Manchester, in his *Illustrations of Sterne*, published in 1798, pointed out how much that writer had borrowed from Burton. The particular passage referred to by Mr. Langley has not been found, but pt. 1, sec. 2, mem. 3, subs. 15, p. 199, 8vo, 1838, *On the Love of Learning, or over-much Study. With a Digression of the Misery of Scholars, and why the Muses are Melancholy*, must have been in his mind, and the following may be quoted from that singularly curious and attractive work, as a general description of the complaint, which seems at this time, whether from over much study or other causes, to have attacked him: "Generally of them all take this, *de inanibus semper conqueruntur, & timent*, saith *Aretius*; they complaine of toyes, and feare^f without a cause, and still thinke their melancholy to be most griueous, none so bad as they are, though it be nothing in respect, yet neuer any man sure was so troubled,

^f *timeo tamen
metusq. causæ
nescius, causa est
metus. Heinsius
Austriaco.*

or in this sort. As really tormented and perplexed for toyes and trifles (such things as they will after laugh at themselves) as if they were most materiall and essentiall matters indeed worthy to be feared, and will not be satisfied. Pacifie them for one, they are instantly troubled with some other feare, alwaies afraid of some thing, which they foolishly imagine or conceiue to themselves, which never peradventure was, neuer can be, neuer likely will be, troubled in minde vpon euery small occasion, vnquiet, still complaining, grieuing, vexing, suspecting, grudging, discontent, & cannot be freed so long as melancholy continues. Or if their minds be more quiet for the present, and they free from forraine feares, outward accidents, yet their bodies are out of tune, they suspect some part or other to be amisse, now their head akes, heart, stomacke, spleene, &c. is misaffected, they shall surely haue this or that disease; still troubled in body, minde, or both, and through winde, corrupt phantasie, some accidentall distemper continually molested. Yet for all this, as *§Iacchinus* notes, *in all other things they are wise, stayd, discreet, and doe nothing vnbeseeeming their dignity, person, or place, this foolish, ridiculous, and childish feare excepted*; which so much, so continually tortures, and crucifies their soules, like a barking dogge that alwaies bawles, but seldome bites, this feare euer molesteth, and so long as Melancholy lasteth, cannot be avoided."

§ Cap. 15, in 9.
Rhasis, in multis
vidi, præter ra-
tionem semper
aliquid timent,
in ceteris tamen
optime se gerūt
neq, aliquid
præter dignita-
tem committunt.

9 Abdias Assheton, B.D., was the second of the seven sons of the Rev. John Assheton, M.A., Fellow of S. John's College, Cambridge, and Rector of Middleton, son of Sir Richard Assheton, Knt. Abdias Assheton was baptized in his father's church November 1, 1563 (*Reg. Book*), and was educated at S. John's College, Cambridge, and like his father, who was a distinguished scholar, became a Fellow of the same. He was the personal friend and biographer of Dr. William Whitaker, the Master of Trinity College. He was an able and devout son of the Church of England, of the High Church school, observed Saints' days at a time when their observance was unpopular, and was a regular preacher when large parishes were ill supplied with judicious preachers. Like his friend Dean Nowell, this "fisher of men" sedately followed his piscatorial amusement in the famous rivers Ribble and Hodder, whilst rector of Sladeburn, and also joined his relations and neighbours in the sport of fox hunting in the wilds of Harden. (*Assheton's Journal*, notes, pp. 3, 103, 104.) He was the favourite Chaplain of Robert, Earl of

Essex, and attended that nobleman on the scaffold, on the 25 February 1600-1, 43 Elizabeth. After the Earl was sentenced, he said, "One thing I beg of you, my Lords, that have free access to her Majesty's person, humbly to beseech her Majesty to grant me that, during the short time that I shall live, I may have the same preacher to comfort me that hath been with me since my troubles began, for as he that hath been long sick is more desirous of the physician that is best acquainted with the constitution of his body, so I most wish to have my comfort in spiritual medicine from him who hath been, and is, best acquainted with the inward griefs and secret afflictions of my soul." (*Criminal Trials*, vol. i, p. 365.) Upon the failure of the Dean of Norwich (Dr. Thomas Dove, afterwards Bishop of Peterborough), his own chaplain, Mr. Assheton, whose attendance he had requested, both at his first apprehension and on his conviction, was sent to him by the council. This man, who is described by a contemporary (Hearne's *Notes to Camden's Elizabeth*, vol. iii, p. 957) as "base, fearful and mercenary," by a formal show of zeal had gained a great ascendancy over the mind of Essex, who had himself, as Lord Orford expresses it, "a solemn tincture of religion," especially during the latter years of his life. In what manner Assheton was prepared for his task is not known, but the effect of his discourse with the earl was such, that, soon after the departure of the minister, he sent to Lord Thomas Howard, the Constable of the Tower, requesting him to entreat the Queen, that the Lord Keeper, the Lord Treasurer, the Lord Admiral and Sir Robert Cecil, might come to him in the Tower, as he was desirous to discharge his conscience and confess. (*Crim. Trials*, pp. 367-8.) On the 25 February, 1600-1, Abdias Assheton and two other divines who attended the earl, signed a paper, in which they distinctly announce that Essex confessed his sin, thanked God that his course was prevented, and desired that he might die privately. (*State Pap. Dom. Queen Eliz.*) In a letter from Chancellor Egerton, Buckhurst, Nottingham and Robert Cecil, to the constable of the Tower, the day before the execution, they say: "we pray you also let Mr. Warburton require Mr. Asheton, privately of himself to persuade him (Essex) to few words and patience, and that he do accompany him," (p. 375), which he did, and on the scaffold the earl requested his prayers, and that he would not leave him (pp. 376-7).

Mr. Jardine observes (*Crim. Trials*, vol. i, p. 370, 12mo, 1832), "that

in estimating the degree of credit to be given to the narrative of his conversation and conduct after his condemnation, we must bear in mind that we merely know so much on the subject as the queen and her council thought proper to make public. No friend of Essex, not even his countess or his mother, nor any other person who might have given an indifferent account of his behaviour, was admitted to him. On the other hand *the Divines were the mere tools of the Government*, and the four Lords of the Council would tell their own story."

There is nothing to prove that Mr. Assheton was not a tried and sincere friend of Essex. He had been the earl's private chaplain, and enjoyed his master's confidence long before his troubles came, so that when committed to the Tower, the earl's first and most earnest request was that he might be permitted to have the spiritual comforts and counsels of his own chaplain, a favour which he seems to have been afraid would hardly be granted. It is unlikely that Essex should have been deceived in a man so closely connected with him and his household, or that the court party should attempt to bribe and corrupt him. If he were, as Mr. Jardine asserts, a mere tool of the government, he, at least, met with neither reward nor promotion. It is true that the queen died shortly after the earl's execution, and James the first was not likely to advance an enemy of the nobleman for whom he had entertained a strong personal friendship. On the other hand Mr. Assheton, more than thirty years after the execution, mentions the earl in his Will in terms of great affection, and bequeaths the "Pocket Dial or Clock," the precious gift which he received from him the night before his execution, to the head of his own house at Middleton; see *Assheton's Journal*, pp. 102-4; and for a drawing and description of the Dial, see *Archæol.*, vol. xl, pt. ii, p. 344, *et seq.*, *Notes and Queries*, 4 s. ix, Jan. 6, 1872, p. 9. He died on the 8th and was buried on the 13th November, 1633, at Middleton, and he is erroneously stated in the Register Book to have attained the age of 75 years. (See *Notes and Queries*, 2 s. viii, 1859.

¹⁰ William Bourne, B.D., Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, said to have been born at Broadgate in Staffordshire, and a reformed member of a well descended Romanist family (Strype's *Annals*, vol. i, c. xxxv) when applying for ordination in 1584 he scrupled subscription to Whitgift's articles. He sought to be ordained by Chaderton, Bishop of Chester,

but without success, because he would not subscribe. He then waited upon Dr. Howland, Bishop of Peterborough and Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, but was equally unsuccessful. At last he was ordained by Dr. William Hughes, Bishop of St. Asaph, without subscription (Brook's *Lives of the Pur.* vol. iii, p. 514), and was thus enabled, no doubt conscientiously, to violate the rules of the Church and to ignore the law of the land. It has been stated, probably on insufficient evidence, that Bourne was invited to Manchester by Bishop Chaderton, as it is hardly likely that the Bishop should wish to introduce into his Diocese the man whom he had refused to ordain. The fact appears to have been that Chaderton and others, on the death of Archdeacon Mullins in 1591, had requested that Dr. William Perkins, or a divine of his popular talents and principles, he being a strong Episcopalian, might be sent from Cambridge to supply Mullins' fellowship in Manchester. (Dr. Hibbert Ware's *Hist. Coll. Ch.*, vol. i, p. 120, from Hollinworth.) But even this as regards the date is scarcely correct, unless Bourne came about that time as a Chaplain, as the King's letter to the Warden to elect Mr. W. Bourne a Fellow of the College, and also a royal grant to him of the reversion of the Wardenship, after the death of Dr. Dee, are both dated September 30, 1603. (*Cal. State Pap. Domestic*, Jac. I, p. 41.) Greswell, indeed states that he had been Chaplain (*Hist. Coll. Ch.*, p. 184), but I have not met with his name in that office amongst the chapter or other records. Mr. John Radclyffe deposed on 1 July, 1638, that Mr. Bourne had been a Fellow "thirty years and upwards." (*Lanc. MSS.* vol. xli, p. 167.) And in 1604 the Bishop was informed that Mr. Bourne, "Fellow of the College," had not administered the sacraments "sithence his coming to Manchester." (*Ibid.* p. 169.) On the 18 August, 1604, a grant of the Rectory of Braxtēd Magna, in Essex, which had been made to him, was revoked and Dr. Thomas Blague presented. (*State Pap. Domestic*, Jac. I, p. 143.) In this year he was summoned before the Bishop of Chester for Nonconformity, and admonished (*Lanc. MSS.* vol. xxii, p. 176); 15 December, 1609, he was again cited before the Bishop (*Ibid.* p. 126); 7 March, 1609-10, Richard Murray, D.D., had a grant of the Wardenship, and on the 11 March, the Fellows were "commanded to admit him" to the dignity, notwithstanding former letters in favour of Mr. W. Bourne (*Dom.* Jac. I, pp. 497, 498), and on the 7 April, 1609, a warrant was granted to pay Mr. Bourne 100 marks of the king's

free gift (*Ibid.*, p. 502.) Nor was this the only compensation he received for the loss of the wardenship. Murray settled upon him 30*l.* a year for life out of his share of the tithes of the parish of Manchester, in which simoniacal contract Bourne saw nothing wrong, although in after years Laud denounced the transaction as illegal and perilously approaching to direct fraud. (*Chetham Evid.*) Hollinworth, his contemporary, has left a vivid description of his style of preaching and general proceedings in Manchester. He seems to have been, in almost every respect, a Presbyterian, and to have opposed bishops and kings with equal vigour, and it is an indication of the miserable spirit of the times that the influence of the bishops was so small with the people that they were unable to restrain popular clerical favourites, however roughly insubordinate or vulgarly schismatical. Hollinworth has recorded, certainly not deprecatingly, that "in little, or nothing, he dissented from the discipline used in Scotland; but vehemently propagated it" (p. 104); at the same time the partisan biographer adds, "in a private, prudent and peaceable way" (p. 105), which is the "way" said to be pursued by the Jesuits, although Mr. Bourne was "zealous against every error, especially against Papistry," and it may be feared sadly vindictive against the whole Vatican fraternity. He was called "one of the Black Preachers" of Manchester, owing to his fanatical dislike and total disuse of the surplice. He was suspended by Richard, Archbishop of York, in 1633, and three years previously the ruinous condition of the choir, the omission of the sacraments, the suspension of ritual, the neglect of the parishioners, and other grievances, had all come under the strong censure of his diocesan, but he refused to recognize his jurisdiction, evaded his injunctions, and disdained his principles. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxii, p. 132-4.) There can be little doubt that hard measures were sometimes adopted by the bishops towards these malcontents, but it may be admitted that the sturdy old Puritan, seeking to crush everything opposed to his own absolutism, was not always a fair subject for leniency or forbearance. Sometimes, however, a "proud prelate" administered "a Pleasant Purge for a Puritan" when other physic might have answered better. As might have been expected, Bourne was a zealous Parliamentarian, and in 1642, when Lord Strange besieged Manchester, Colonel Rosworm says, "the aged and grave Minister, Bourne, was lifted up from the gates of death, and raised in spirit to promote the opposition of the Siege, and Prayers, Sermons and

Singing of Psalms prevailed even in Taverns and Inns in aid of the Republican cause" (Ormerod's *Civil War Tracts*, p. 120). Hollinworth names that Bourne married "a kinswoman of the Cecils." A marriage license was granted at Chester, and addressed to Mr. Hankinson, curate of Lathom chapel, to marry Wm. Bourne, S.T.B., Verbi Dei apud Manchester, Predicator, and Mrs. Mary Welbye of Lathom house, spinster, dated October 1, 1608 (*Marr. Lic. Book*, Chester), but her connection with Lady Derby, who was granddaughter of Lord Burghley, has not been discovered. He was buried in the Collegiate church, after a stormy life, on the 26th August, 1643, aged about 83 years. He had a large family. Abridged from *Fasti Mancun. Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xli.

¹¹ Peter Shaw, Mr. Bourne's ally in the Collegiate church, is probably the individual here named. He was the son of the Rev. Peter Shaw, D.D., rector of Bury, and prebendary of Durham, and a relative of Bishop Pilkington (Cooper's *Athen. Cantab.*). He was educated at Trinity Hall and Magdalen College, Cambridge, where he became B.A. and M.A. He was a kinsman, but probably not brother-in-law, of Mr. Robert Heywood of Heywood, "an excellent poet" (*Iter. Lancastr. Pedigree*, p. 22), whose poems have been edited by Mr. Crossley for the Chetham society (vol. lxxvi). He married Frances, daughter of Robert Dukenfield of Dukenfield, Esq., and became the brother-in-law of James Assheton of Chaderton, Esq. (see note 3). (*Piccopé's MS.*, Ped., Cheth. Libr.) He was one of the chaplains of the Collegiate church of Manchester in, and probably before, the year 1629. In 1633 he was elected fellow of the college (*Chapt. Reg.*), and in 1637 Mr., afterwards Colonel, Raphe Assheton presented him to the rectory of Radcliffe. Mr. Shaw was indebted for his promotion in the Collegiate Church to Sir Richard Murray, Bart., the warden, and he, as well as his patron, formed a strong prejudice against Mr. Richard Johnson, the learned and excellent fellow of the church, whose disinterested views he unjustly misrepresented, and alleged specific, but trivial, charges against him before the privy council. Johnson, writing in his pleasant mood, to Humphrey Chetham at Clayton in 1634, speaks of "the Reverend Peter's Certificate and Defamations," and adds, "Peter is in truth *Diabolus fratrium*, and accuses us of many things." At one time Archbishop Laud, incongruously enough, was disposed to favour him, but seems to have found out that he was a feeble churchman, a courtier and a time-server,

and not very unlike "Mr.-Facing-both-ways," of the matchless allegorist of that century. In one of Johnson's letters, addressed to Humphrey Chetham from London in 1635, whilst before the council on the subject of a new charter for the Collegiate church, he observes: "the Warden, Mr. Shaw and the Nonconformists have been my only enemies, and a hundred men will prove that the principal cause of my dislike (of Shaw) is not as he pretended on account of *his* Conformity (God save the mark!) but because of his Obsanitie and Paradoxes — that God punisheth in heaven, and the like — for which he had been sharply censured." He is named as a "Sufferer" by Walker, but his losses are not stated. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xli, pp. 212, 213; *Fasti Mancun*; Cooper's *Athen Cantab.*, vol. ii, p. 493; *Chetham Miscell.*, vol. v, notes, p. 15.)

¹² Raphe A[ssheton] here named, is doubtless the only son of Sir Richard Assheton of Middleton, by his second wife Mary, daughter of Robert Holt of Ashworth Hall, Esq., and the widow of Thomas Greenhalgh of Brandlesome, Esq. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. iii, p. 233.) He was baptized at Middleton, January 18, 1595-6 (*Reg. Bk.*), which agrees with the age here assigned to him. He is described in his father's Will, dated 1617, as "Master of Arts," and his friend Langley had probably taken a similar degree at that time, both of them being about 22.

Raphe Assheton was the ancestor of the Asshetons of Kirkby in Cleveland, in the county of York (see *Assheton's Journal*, p. 71). There is in Halesworth Church, in the county of Suffolk, a Monument surrounded by sundry shields, charged with armorial bearings, and having the following Inscription:

"M. S.

Richard Assheton borne y^e 26th of July 1622 sonne and heire to Raphe Assheton of Kirkby in the Co. of Yorke (Sonn of Sir Richard Assheton of Middleton in the Countie of Lancaster Knt) and Katherin wife to the said Raphe (daughter of William Brereton of Asheley in the Co. of Chester Esq^{re}) lately Fellow Com^{on}er in y^e pious and learned Society of Sidney Sussex Colledge in Cambridge, where his Course of Life was such that it gained the love of all and deserved the Imitation of the best; rendered up his life to y^e Almightye

att y^e house of his worthy and louing kins-
man James Assheton, Bachelor of Divinity
and Rector of this Church, May 28th 1641
and his body to be here interred, under his
Tomb - stone, in this Chancell, in hope of a
Joyfull Resurrection.

Motto to the Arms—In Domino Confido.”

(*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxxi, p. 113.)

¹³ For some account of Mr. Richard Halliwell, the landlord of the Bull's Head Inn, and an extensive vintner in Manchester, see Nicholas Assheton's *Journal*, p. 110, note 3. This was the tavern or hostelry where the Royalists “most did congregate” during the civil war, and it was the house of call of Humphrey Chetham and others of his family. Richard Halliwell, his father, was younger brother of James Halliwell of Ealees, Gent., and was buried at Rochdale 11 June, 1595, being entered in the Register of Burials “Mr. Richard Halliwell”; and his son, “Richard Halliwell of Manchester,” is named in the inventory of debts owing to his uncle, James Halliwell of Ealees, in 1598 (*Pike House Evid.*)

¹⁴ See note 12 above.

¹⁵ Nihil facilius quam lacrymas marescere. Quint. (Editis. Lemaire), vol. ii, p. 417. C.

¹⁶ It is not improbable that the copy of the curious medical work, full of learning, wit, and puerility, referred to by Langley, and which had been carefully read by him, is now in the Chetham library, having passed, with other similar works, from Robert Syddale, a Manchester physician of the seventeenth century, to Dr. Byrom, and which now forms a part of his library. It is a thick *MS.* volume, in small 4to, beautifully written, by an English scribe, on vellum, about the early part of the sixteenth century. It is bound in wood, covered with embossed leather, and the original clasps gone.

Another copy of the same work, in 8vo, printed at Paris in the year 1625, is also in the Byrom library, having the following title page: “Schola Salernitana, hoc est De Valetudine Tvendâ, opus nova methodo instrvctvm infinitis versibus auctum Commentariis Villanouani, Curionis, Crellii et Costansoni Illustratum. Adjectæ svnt animaduerciones et

copiosæ Renati Moreav Doctoris Medici Parisiensis." Dedicated to Cardinal Richelieu.

The famous Medical College of Salerno in Italy was founded by Charles the Great in the year 802, and a history of its learned professors and philosophers is given in the *Bibliotheca Scriptorum Medicorum*, by J. J. Mangetus, M.D., p. 210, folio, Geneva 1731. The author of the poems of the School of Salerne is thus named: Georgius Schenkus in bibliotheca medica notat Arnaldū Villanovanum opus poeticum *de bona Valetudine conservanda* commentariis suis enarrauisse et nomine scholæ totius Salernitanæ, vero auctore dissimulato inscripsisse. Auctorem vero libri facit Joannem de Mediolano Medicum et versificatorem suo tempore insignem qui universum medicinæ florem unanimi Salernitanæ Scholæ approbatione ad Anglorum regem versibus circiter mille ducentis triginta nonem conscripsit; quorum tertia pars vix ab Arnaldo in lucem emissa sit, integrum autem opus manuscriptum in Bibliotheca Schenkiana asseruetur. *Prolegom. in Scholam Salernitanam*, cap. iii, p. 15.

An edition of *The Englishman's Doctor, or the School of Salerne*, was published in 1651. Langley's reference to the work seems to be general.

¹⁷ Thomas Mynshull of Manchester, apothecary, was the third son of Richard Mynshull of Wisteaſton, Whiston, or Weston in Cheshire (Ormerod's *Chesh.*, vol. iii, p. 156, Dugdale's *Visit. of Lanc.*), and settled in Manchester in or about 1635, and was probably connected through his mother, a daughter of Nicholas Goldsmith, with the wealthy and influential mercantile families of Nugent, Mosley, Tipping and Chetham. He was the constant medical attendant of Humphrey Chetham. He was one of the first governors of the hospital and library named in the will of that good man, dated 16 December 1651, and he attended the first meeting of the body, on the 6th December 1653, when he was appointed the first treasurer of the charities (*Governor's Minute Book*). In 1644 he had purchased Chorlton Hall, where his descendants continued to reside in the rank of gentry until the latter part of the last century. (*Found. of Manchester*, vol. ii, pp. 299-300.) On the 2 August, 1695, in a Chancery suit between Edward and George Chetham, gent. (sons of Edward Chetham of Smedley, Esq.), Thomas Mynshull of Chorlton Hall, the elder, aged 81 years, deposed that his son Thomas Mynshull, jun., was an executor of Edward Chetham of Smedley, Esq., and that he (Mynshull, senr.) had long been intimately acquainted with the various

members of the Chetham family and knew their affairs — that he very well knew Mr. Humphrey Chetham of Clayton, had long been on friendly terms with him and was with him in his last sickness — that Mr. Edward Chetham of Smedley bought lands with the money his uncle Humphrey left him — that on returning from London he married the daughter of Robert Wilson of Smedley — his son Edward followed no business or profession to enable him to be a joint purchaser of lands, as he pretended, with his late father, &c. Humphrey Chetham the Founder in a cancelled Will dated 26 September, 1642, gives legacies to various friends, and amongst others to “Anne wife of Mr. Thomas Mynshull of Manchester 5*l*.”, the said Mr. Mynshull being a witness of the execution of the Will. (*Dr. Fleming's MS.*, vol. ii; *Chetham Evid.*) Thomas Mynshull was buried at the Collegiate Church, Manchester, 22 December 1698, and Anne his wife, daughter of James Lightbowne, merchant, on the 24 December, 1669. Mr. J. Fitchett Marsh has ably shown that Palmer, the Manchester antiquary, failed to prove his statement that Milton's third wife was a grand-daughter of Mr. Thomas Mynshull, the Manchester apothecary. *Cheth. Miscell.*, vol. i, app. p. 44, postscript.)

¹⁸ Probably a Vintner at Oxford.

¹⁹ This puts us in mind of Dr. Ratty's *Spiritual Diary*, “Twelfth month 1753, *An Hypochondriac obnubilation from wind and indigestion.*” “*Swinish at dinner and repast.* Mechanically and sinfully dogged.” C.

²⁰ The classics.

A
CLOSE CATALOGUE
OF THE
Rectors of Prestwich,

FROM 1316 TO 1632.

Extracted from the Episcopal Registers of Lichfield and Chester by

THE REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A.,

HON. CANON OF MANCHESTER AND VICAR OF MILNROW.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

M.DCCC.LXXVIII.

A CLOSE CATALOGUE OF THE RECTORS
OF PRESTWICH, A.D. 1316-1632.

*Extracted from the Episcopal Registers of Lichfield and
Chester. (Lanc. MSS.)*

IT will be seen from the following passage in connection with the Langleys, Rectors of Prestwich, taken in substance from Booker's *History of Prestwich*, 4to, pp. 88 *seq.*, 1852, and unfortunately transferred to the new edition of Baines's *History of Lancashire* (Harland), vol. i, p. 449, 4to, 1868, that little dependance can be placed on the statements in it :

“Ralph Langley is the first Rector of whom anything is known, and is said to have erected the present Church, being second son of Sir Robert Langley, and nominated by his father as early as 1428. In 1465 he became Warden of Manchester, and died after 1490. Thomas Langley was the next Rector, and held the benefice in the years 1507-1517. Sir William Langley was Rector in 1535-1561, and probably died in 1569.”

vii Ides Avg. 1316.— John Travers Cl. ad Rect. Prestwyche p mort. Will. Markelaw. Patr. Ade de Prestwyche. *Reg. Langton.*

iiii Ides Dec. 1320.— Rich. de Par accolite ad Rect. Prestwyche p. resign. John Travers Patr. S^r. Rich. de Holand Mil. *Ibid.*

1330 Oct. 8.—Nichol de Trafford Cler. adm. Rector de Prestwych. Patr. Tho. fil. Ade de Prestwych vac. p mort. Ricci. de Par ult. Rect. ibm. *Reg. Rog. de Northbury.*

vii Kal. Avg. 1334.—Rich. de Wetton pbr adm. Rector de Prestwych. Patr. Thome fil Ad. de Prestwych, vac. p resign. Nic. de Trafford. *Reg. Northbury* (Rich. de Waverton Rect. in 1338).

xviii Kal. Maii 1347.—Rob. de Conyngton Capell. adm. Rect. de Prestwych. Patr. Rich. de Radclyffe, p mort. Rich. de Wareton ult. Rect. Inst. p maȝr Johēs de Assheton official Archd. Cestr. *Ibid.*

iii Kal. Julii 1357.—Johēs de Radclyffe Cler. ad Rect. de Prestwych, Patr. Rich. de Radclyffe vac. p mort. Rob. de Conyngton ult. Rect. ibm. *Reg. Stretton.*

viii Nov. 1361.—At London y^e B'p gr. License to Rich. de Pilkyngton Rect. de Prestwych to be absent 4 y^{rs} and that he shall receive accord. to custom, y^e B'p dispensed wth hym in *fania constant.* *Ibid.*

xvi Kal. Apr. 1365.—Dom. Rich. de Pylkyngton pbr adm. Rect. de Prestwych, Patr. Rich. de Radclyffe Sen. vac. per resign. Joh. de Radclyffe. *Ibid.*

xii Sep. 1400.—Dom. Geoff del ffere psbtr ad Rect. Prestwych p mort. Ric. de Pylkyngton, Robt. de Longley pronus. *Reg. Bourghill.*

viii Maii 1401.—Nichūs de Tyldesley Cler. ad Rect^o. de Prestwych by the King, who recovered the advowson at Lancaster for [or from] Robert de Langley. *Ibid.*

..... 1409.—Peter de Langley p̄br adm. Rect. de Prestwyche vac. p mort. ult. Incumb. Patr. Rob. de Langley arm. *Ibid.*

20 Aug. 1445.—Dom. Radulf. Longley Cler. adm. Rect. de Prestwich. Patr. Robt. Longeley Arm. vac. p mort. Petri Longley ult. Rect. *Reg. Heyworth.*

9 Nov. 1465.—M. Rad. Langley Capell. doctor in utroq. jur. tam civili quam canon. ad Custos Colleg. Manch. p consecrⁿ Joh̄s Booth ult. cust. Epis. Exeter. He was canonically instit^d on present. Riči Hatfeld & Nich. Statham pro hâc vice p cart. D. Ric. West, Dom. la Ware et aliis. *Reg. Hales.*

27 July 1481.—D. Jacob. Stanley Cler. adm. to the office of Mag^r sive Custos Coll. B. M. Manchest^r per resign. Radulph. Langley Cler. ex causâ permutacois fact. in Eccles. Cathedr. S. Pauli Lond. et P̄benda. de Holywell alias Fynesbury, Tho. la Warr Mil. ac Dom. Manchest. Patr. *Reg. Hales.*

1 May 1493.—Dom. Ralph Langley in Decret. Bačcl. ad Rect. Prestwyche per mort. Dom. Radulph Langley ult. Rect^r. Patr. Robert Langley Arm. *Reg. Smith.*

4 Sept. 1498.—Thomas Longley Cler. ad Rect. Prestwich p resignⁿ. discret. vir, Radulphe Longley, ult. Rect. Patr. Rob. Longley Esq. *Reg. Arundel.*

Thomas Langley Rect. Prestwich ordained a secular Presbyter on the title of his benefice 14 Mar. 1499. *Reg. Arundel.*

5 Apr. 1525.—William Langley p̄br Art. Mag. ad Rect. Prestwyche, p mort. Thome Langley ult. Rect. Patr. Rob. Langley Esq. *Reg. Blythe, Lichfield.*

28 May 1552.—William Langley Cler. ad Rect. Prestwiche p mort. Mag. Wilki Langley ult. Rect. By deed dated 1 Oct. 1542, Robert Langley of Agecroft, Esq., granted this presentation to William Davenport of Bramall, Tho. Holt of Grislehurst, and Geoffrey Shakerley Esq^{res}. The first named nominated. *Reg. Bird. Cestr.*

19 July 1569.—William Langley M.A. Inst. to the Rect. of Prestwich p depriva^{ci} Wilki Langley ult. Inc. on the present. of James Assheton of Chaderton, Esq., and Dorothy his wife, one of y^e dau. and coheirs of Sir Robert Langley, late of Agecroft, knt., dec. Nomination dated at Chaderton, July 9, 1569. *Reg. Downham.*

10 May 1611.—John Langley A.M. Inst. to the Rect^y of Prestwich p resign. Mr. William Langley ult. Rect. Patr. James Assheton of Chaderton, Esq. *Reg. Lloyd.*

Sep. 26 1632.—Izaac Allen M.A. was Inst. to the Rect. of Prestwich vac. per mort. Joh^{ns} Langley Cl. M.A., the last Rector. Patron, Edmund Assheton, Esq. *Reg. Bridgeman.*

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ERRATUM.

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